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OCTOBER 2015

EXCLUSIVE

## 805 BREN

CZ-USA  
IMPORTS  
THE PS1  
IN 5.56

FIRST LOOK  
TRIJICON  
MRO

WILL THIS BECOME  
THE NEW KING OF  
MICRO RED DOTS?  
p. 86

+ Q&A  
WITH  
ANDREW  
CASHNER

Baseball's Fastest  
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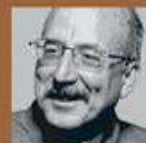
GARRY JAMES:  
Japanese Nambu  
Type 94



KYLE LAMB:  
Combat Mindset:  
After the Gunfight



PATRICK SWEENEY:  
.300 Blackout or 5.56?  
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# 66

## STREET PISTOL

BY ERIC R. POOLE



Guns & Ammo's subscriber cover features a new CORE15 Roscoe AR pistol: It's like stuffing carbine power in a to-go bag. [p. 54](#)

COVER PHOTOS: MICHAEL ANSCHUETZ, ABOVE: SEAN UTLEY

### 54 HANDGUNS?

CORE15 has a new pair of Roscoes. (And oh boy what a set!)

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What you get when you combine the ergonomics and modularity of the M4 platform with the AK47 7.62x39 cartridge.

BY JEREMY CANTRELL

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BY GARRY JAMES

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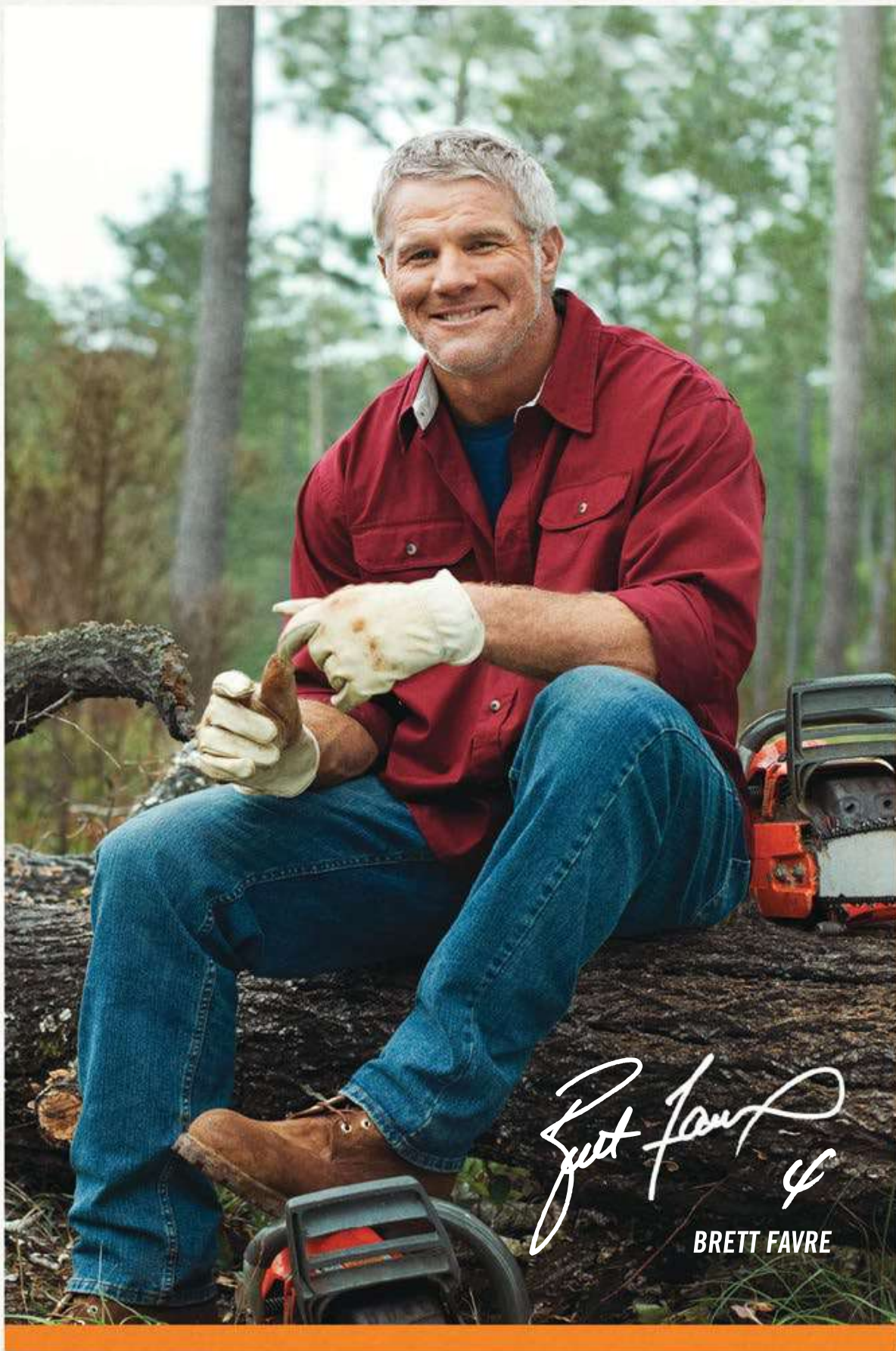
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## WHITTLESEY'S NAMESAKE

My family truly enjoyed the back page of the July issue featuring Samuel Woodfill in "Spent Cases." It was especially nice to see mention of our distant relative Lt. Col. Charles Whittlesey in the column. My son is named in honor of his war hero. Here is a photo of 6-year-old Charles F. Whittlesey saluting his deceased namesake and holding an M1903 Springfield rifle from the Great War. Thanks again for the interesting and inspiring read.

F. Gordon Whittlesey  
Hillsborough, New Jersey

## DA/SA VS. STRIKER

In the late 1970s, some of us officers with the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office in Colorado carried a Smith & Wesson Model 59 when off duty. We were only allowed to carry revolvers on duty. That 59 was my first experience with a DA/SA pistol, and I've owned them ever since, preferring them also for their inherent safety. My

favorites are SIG Sauer's P220, P226 and P239. If the threat is card-table close, the first double-action shot is not a detriment. After the first shot, every subsequent shot is a superior single-action trigger pull. Regarding Chris Mudgett's feature on FN's new FNS pistols, I could not disagree with him more. Striker-fired pistols are not a better mousetrap,

## AUGUST '84

The 10mm Auto cartridge was initially produced by Norma of Sweden and was at first unique to the Bren Ten. Former G&A Editor Howard French introduced the production version of the pistol in this issue's exclusive cover story. Backed by the enthusiastic approval of Col. Jeff Cooper, the Bren Ten was manufactured by Dornaus & Dixon. Though nearly 1,500 were produced, many deliveries did not include magazines, and expensive spares were virtually impossible to source. Unfortunately, the company went bankrupt by 1986.



and DA/SA pistols are the better option. SIG's DA/SA pistols are not going to go off inadvertently; I don't care where you stuff them. Yet, with increasing frequency I keep reading about people shooting holes in their legs with striker-fired pistols. Second, Chris argued that a striker-fired pistol provides a more consistent trigger pull for every shot as opposed to an "11-pound" double-action first shot followed by a series of

5-pound-pull single-action shots. How is a "spongy and stagey" striker-fired pistol better than only the first shot on a DA/SA being less than perfect? I am on my second Glock, a G23, which I purchased because the FBI adopted it. Like the Glock 30 I had previously owned, the trigger on my G23 is terrible.

Mark Liveris  
Highlands Ranch, Colorado

## RIMLESS .357 MAGNUM?

I was just wondering why there has never been a .357 Magnum Rimless cartridge. I used to work in Remington's ammunition plant, and we made .45 ACP and .45 Auto Rim. The latter eliminated the need for half-moon clips for revolvers. I have seen a .357 Mag. semiauto pistol for rimmed ammunition from Coonan, but has anyone ever tried to make a .357?

John Archer  
email

*John, great idea, but one problem: Even I don't have hands big enough for that. A rimless .357 Magnum ends up making a full-size 1911 frame look compact. Yes, the Coonan people have made a .357 Mag. auto loader for decades, but it has never really set the world on fire. (Sorry, Coonan.) And a double-stack? It would feel like*



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a 2X4 in the hands. Plus, how much performance are you expecting? The 9mm +P or 9mm +P+, — not to mention the .357 SIG — deliver as much excitement as a lot of people desire, so adding a bonus of 200 to 300 fps might not be greeted with happy cries. I suspect it would be in the same league as the 9x25 Dillon; too much of a good thing. But keep at it; we need creative types like you to keep expanding the borders of what is possible.

— P. Sweeney

### STILL NO .22

I wish somebody would come clean with us regarding the ongoing shortage of .22LR. I refuse to believe that this is all based on consumer demand. It would

be refreshing to get the straight skinny for a change. Come on, guys; give us a break and level with us!

**Jack Campbell**  
Union, South Carolina

We reached out and asked each of the major brands.

— Eds

**Aguila** “Aguila has developed plans to incrementally increase rimfire production over the next few years in parallel to our growing centerfire production. This year alone, Aguila Ammunition has increased production by 30 percent. Due to the complex processes involved in the making of rimfire products, the number of manufacturers is limited. The total produc-

tion capacity, while large, is inflexible. Increasing capacity cannot happen overnight. It typically takes three years for the increase in production to be seen at the commercial or retail level. There are many costs and processes involved with increasing production capacity, such as purchasing new or more-modern equipment, hiring additional employees and ensuring that these investments will be financially feasible for

current and future growth.”

**Federal** “The current market and environment are causing stronger-than-usual demand for products in our industry. With more than 2,000 dedicated employees working diligently, we produce millions of rounds a day with machines running 24 hours a day. Servicing your needs is our first priority. Despite our efforts, there remains much speculation and misinformation



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**#GunMoney** What would you buy this instant with \$1K worth of \$20s?

**nykelseyc** FN Five-Seven  
**davidmtouhill** SIG Sauer P226  
**alex\_gibby\_daoust** Ruger Mini-14  
**pewpewpirate** CZ 75 & Fiocchi ammo  
**matt\_serna** Build my own BCM AR-15



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regarding the availability of commercial ammunition. Getting a machine set up and running to perform the many processes to manufacture rimfire in unison takes time. That said, we are increasing production capacity in both ammunition plants this fall."

**Remington** "It is consumer demand with excessive hoarding. Look at all the AR-style [rimfire] rifles sold in the last few years; they go through large volumes of ammo. There is no conspiracy here. When a market sees a 50 percent increase in the demand during a single year with only a 5 percent drop the next year, it empties the shelves for two years since manufacturers can't ramp

up and add equipment fast enough to keep up. Then, as [sales] start normalizing at a new higher norm, it takes another year or more to fill the emptied pipeline. That's where we are now."

**Winchester** "Like many manufacturers in the shooting sports industry, we are experiencing an extremely high demand for our products. We are working extremely hard to produce an increased supply of quality ammunition to meet our customers' needs. We

appreciate your patience and thank you."

### **THIS MAG IS BORING**

The only interesting thing I found in the entire July and August issues was an advertisement for a cable television program on the 1861 Springfield. You seem totally enthralled with guns made from reclaimed Port-A-Potties or rifles and scopes costing between \$4,000 and \$6,000. And how do fantasy guns from "Terminator Genisys" have a place in a magazine

devoted to real guns? Your hunting articles would be great in Field & Stream, but I want to read about — surprise! — guns. The series on "Combat Mindset" is something I would never read. I am a criminalist and an analytical chemist, not a psychologist, but I really believe that Kyle Lamb is someone who is so delusional that he should not be allowed out of an institution. If I wanted to start a circus, I'll know where to go to hire clowns. I have read G&A for as long as it has

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#### **FIRST LOOK: Ruger Precision Rifle**

**Christopher Gant @huggy757** I once built one similar. OMG what a beautiful rifle. And you can get it in .308, 6.5 Creedmoor and .243? For \$1,250, that is a fair price.



Each month, we'll spotlight your most interesting tweets here as well as the most Favorited tweets.

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been published, and I've subscribed since I retired. I have never canceled or failed to renew my subscription, but if you cannot do better than these last two issues, I will certainly make an exception. Please, do better!

**Fred Davis**  
San Francisco, California

I just finished reading the August 2015 issue of Guns & Ammo. Two stories that should not have been printed are "Terminator Genisys ... A Gun Story" and "The Jack O'Connor Way." At the very least, Editor Eric Poole should have exercised some degree of thought. Brock Lesnar [author of "The Jack O'Connor Way"] has been charged in Alberta, Canada, for poaching. The caliber of the man is what is at issue. Further, Arnold Schwarzenegger [star of "Terminator Genisys"] has gone on record numerous times as being in favor of various aspects of gun control and is a strong

supporter of the Brady Bill. I am reasonably certain that there are better persons to be represented in G&A than the aforementioned individuals. Since your magazine comes in at the elementary level as gun magazines are concerned, it is incumbent upon the staff to present articles with more positive role models. Thank you for your time.  
**Fred Brightman**  
email

### **GETTING BETTER**

I've been a subscriber and reader of G&A for 30 years. I've gotta say that it gets better and better. Your wise decision, Mr. Poole, to bring on Kyle Lamb was genius. I'm a military retiree as well and have been training shooters since the '80s.

After the military, I trained police officers. Lamb is spot on in every article. He's doing us all a service by sharing his knowledge with the broad base of G&A's readership. He makes us safer as shooters and sheepdogs. Also, how about an article on first-aid kits for shooters?  
**J.D. Klingenberg**  
Marble Falls, Texas

### **CARRY RIG LAYOUT**

I like your holster-review column and pictures, but you need to clue us in on how the holsters look on a real person, both man and woman. We need to see how they are worn and how they look. How does a holster hide? Does it make a belt droop? How heavy is the firearm used, and how

tight does the belt need to be?

**Mike Schraeder**  
email

### **WASTE OF PAPER**

I'm sorry, but Kyle Lamb's column "Combat Mindset" in the August issue was a waste of paper for the average American civilian. As a retired police officer with 32 years of service, I think I might be able to offer a more practical view. In your home, have a quality alarm system. If an intruder enters, arm yourself and locate your family so you do not shoot a family member by mistake. Keep the family together, and call 911. Tell the police you are armed and where you are in the house so you don't get in a shootout with the cops.

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**Steiner Optics just came out with this new "intelligent" rifle scope. Is this going to revolutionize the battlefield?**

**4 Charley Drumm** Probably a little much for my .22 bolt-action squirrel gun, huh? (Grin.)



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Do not go looking for the bad guy. Hold your position with your back against the wall so nobody can sneak up on you, and wait for the police to arrive. Generally, the bad guy only wants your property, not a confrontation. Let him take what he wants, and you and your family stay alive. If he enters the room where you and your family are, you have to assume the worst and must do everything in your power to stop him immediately. Finally, when it's all over, though you have done nothing wrong, politely tell the police that you'd like to speak with a lawyer before answering any questions. A confrontation on the street is a whole other ball game. Bad guys on the street are great readers of body language. Learn how to walk with confidence. Whenever possible, don't go into questionable parts of town alone, and walk in well-lit areas. Never let an individual get too close to you physically. Ignore him if he asks you questions, even if it appears rude. If you do find yourself in a situation where you have to use your gun, with the heel of your weak hand, strike your attacker hard in the upper body to throw him off balance and create some distance while drawing your gun. Don't worry about a two-hand grip; use your weak hand to maintain distance. If he gets too close, it's easy for him to take your gun away from you. Action beats reaction every time. Know that in advance, and you're halfway there. The photo with Kyle Lamb's article was ridiculous. Who walks around on the street or in their home like that?

Gary Provenzano  
North Reading, Massachusetts

*Thanks for taking the time to respond to the "Combat Mindset" article I wrote for Guns & Ammo. We value your feedback and will definitely take that into consideration in the future. As for the "ridiculous" picture? It was taken in northern Iraq while I was serving as a Special Operations sergeant major conducting combat operations to eradicate terrorists.*

— K. Lamb 

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# FROM FASTBALLS TO CURVES

**ANDREW CASHNER** is an active Major League Baseball pitcher who has thrown nearly 9,000 pitches since 2010. When not dueling with the league's top hitters, you can find him at the range or in the field. Cashner is a passionate waterfowl hunter during the off season, and, though he rarely throws a curve at batters, he recently appeared in a campaign promoting Taurus' new Curve .380.

**You grew up in Conroe, Texas, roughly 40 miles north of Houston, and you went to school at Texas Christian University near downtown Fort Worth. Did that make you a Houston Astros or a Texas Rangers fan as you grew up?**

I actually grew up watching both teams. When I was in high school, [the Astros] went to the World Series, and that was huge. For sure, Fort Worth is my kinda town, but I'm an East Texas guy until I die.

**You're considered a power pitcher. What's the speed of your fastest fastball?**

My fastest pitch was 104 [miles per hour], and that was back in 2011. I don't have that pitch anymore. In fact, I only hit 100 a couple times this season. I use [fastballs] to help locate my pitches with velocity. When you have that extra velocity, you're able to get away with mistakes, so that's one advantage to having a good fastball.

**Does any one pitch in your career stand out in particular?**

The first pitch in the Majors. For me, that was on Memorial Day in 2010. I was with the Chicago Cubs, and we were playing in Pittsburgh. I managed to get an out in the 7th or 8th [inning], and that was it.

**Whom did you idolize growing up?**

I was a big fan of Nolan Ryan and Kerry Wood.

**Hall-of-Famer Nolan Ryan was another power pitcher, a gun guy and an NRA member. Everyone knows you are a gun guy. Is there a connection between you two?**

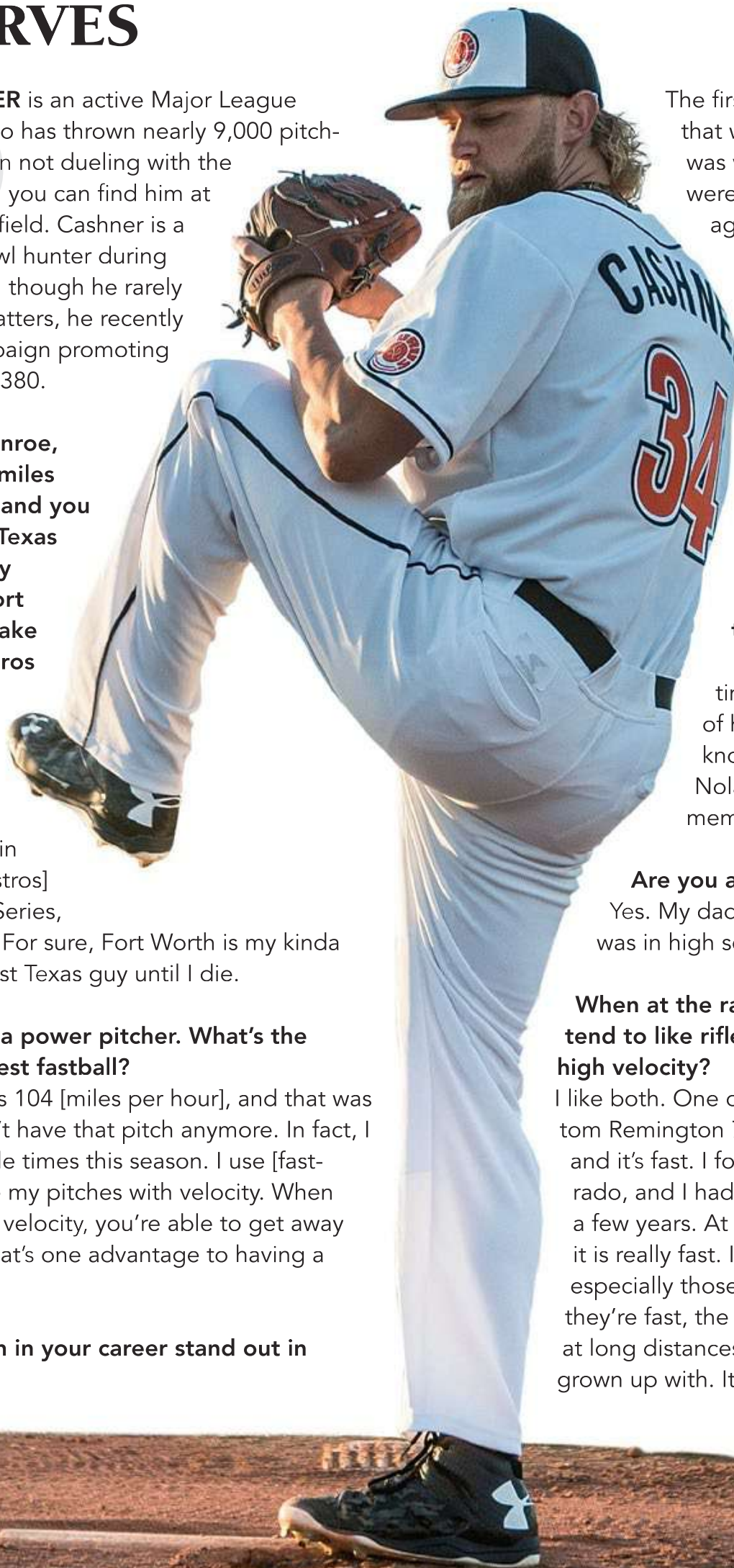
I've actually met him a few times. In Texas, we're all proud of him and where he's from. I don't know many Texans who are not Nolan Ryan fans and NRA members.

**Are you an NRA member?**

Yes. My dad actually signed me up when I was in high school.

**When at the range or in the field, do you tend to like rifles that are highly accurate or high velocity?**

I like both. One of my two favorite rifles is a custom Remington 700 chambered for .17 Fireball, and it's fast. I found it at a pawnshop in Colorado, and I had been looking for that gun for a few years. At nearly 4,000 feet-per-second, it is really fast. I definitely like varmint guns, especially those that tend to shoot accurate. If they're fast, the bullet doesn't fluctuate as much at long distances. I also have a .22-250 I've grown up with. It is straight-up old school.





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**Did you have a hunting or shooting hero through life?**

I actually grew up watching a lot of John Wayne, and I'd pay particular attention to him shooting. Naturally, as a kid watching him, I always wanted a six-shooter.

**Did your parents shoot and teach you to shoot?**

Yes. My dad and grandfather taught me how to shoot early on. My dad has been my best friend the whole way whether it was with shooting or baseball.

**I know that you were also a member of 4-H. Did you do any shooting with them?**

My dad was one of the first guys in the area to help out with shooting in 4-H. As members, we shot skeet, trap and sporting clays regularly, and we would also make a point to shoot the tournaments.

**I hear that you have a number of friends who were snipers or Navy SEALs. Do you get to shoot with them when in San Diego?**

I've got a couple of those guys as buddies. I used to go over and shoot with them more when I was with the Cubs. That said, this past off-season I got together with the SEAL teams, and we went out to shoot. It is cool to step into their world. When I step out onto the baseball field, I feel like I know a lot. But when you step onto the range with one of those guys, it's incredible to see how much they know. Shooting is very technical, just like throwing a baseball in a windy ball field in a different city each week. If a new building or scoreboard goes up since the last game, it can change the wind's influence on a pitch. I can appreciate their level of skill development and being able to work so precisely in different environments. Whenever I'm around people like SEALs, it's more about being an observer than a shooter. That's something I've learned in baseball. There are other areas of expertise and ways to approach the details.

**What is your position on the Second Amendment?**

I'm a supporter of the 2A and our right to carry. This is one of those things that we should take pride in, and it's not going away.

**You pitch roughly once every five days. How do you fill your time between games?**

I place my focus on baseball during the season. There is too much

of a chance to hurt myself doing something stupid. I cut a tendon in my thumb a few years ago, and I couldn't throw my slider after that. I had to adjust my game. My pitching coach started working on a sinker afterward. I would have never learned that sinker, so it turned out to be a learning experience. The sinker is now one of my pitches that gets me out of bad spots in a game.


**How about during the off-season? Do you still love to hunt?**

I do a lot more duck hunting now. My best trip I had was just last year. My whole family stayed in a lodge in Arkansas. We shot our limit by 9 a.m. There were 14 people, all family and close friends. It was such a great time after the Christmas holiday.

**I recently saw a video of you shooting and endorsing a Taurus Curve. I like the name play, by the way. When was the first time you shot a Taurus?**

That was my first time shooting a Curve, but my dad has always had Taurus pistols. In fact, the first Taurus I bought for myself was a Millennium. It's still the gun I'm carrying today. That 9mm is one of my favorites to shoot.

**You're 6 feet, 6 inches tall; 220 pounds. What was your first impression of a gun as small as the Taurus Curve? Do your hands just swallow it up?**

That's the biggest thing for me with handguns. You don't really know how you're going to like it until you actually shoot the gun. The Curve fit my hand really nicely, and I didn't have any issues at all. It doesn't shoot as small as the gun is. It's also one of the more accurate pistols. Out of seven shots, I can quickly put three to four of those rounds into a bullseye. 

**GO ONLINE TO SEE MORE!**

More of G&A's exclusive interview with Andrew Cashner is available online at [gunsandammo.com](http://gunsandammo.com) as well as a special gallery and extra videos.



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## LET'S HAVE A BALL

**MY EARLIEST MEMORIES** at the range were family affairs. Between the age of 4 and 5 at the time, I used to harbor a bit of resentment toward my sister, Rachelle, who would take a Ruger 10/22 and shoot all the *fun* targets first by wastefully spraying through her extended magazine. You know the ones: water balloons, glass bottles, milk jugs and, perhaps, fruit or vegetables. Adding insult to injury, Dad would have me help reload those mags to keep her fingers from getting sore.

When it was my turn, I could usually find a few cans that escaped her fury, and, if I was lucky, a balloon or two would still be hanging on a post. I'd try to skillfully put a bullet through a can in the holes of a letter such as “o” in “Coca-Cola” with an old bolt-action rimfire and save the balloons for last. As everyone moved on to shoot other guns, I would be allowed to sit at the table and snipe the remains of the target-rich environment.

Eventually, the hole-punched cans were too dangerous to handle and reset for risk of getting cut, and bottles were reduced to bloodletting shards. There would always come a time when there was nothing left to plink. We cleaned up what we could, policed up the brass and went home. However, there were some who didn't clean up, and this place became a precarious trash site. This is why, today, most public ranges won't let you and me shoot such improvised targets.

I've recently rediscovered how to have fun again using Champion targets. We are all familiar with the VisiColor bullseyes and animal-themed targets at box stores, and you've likely shot at one of the metal spinners or clays. Unlike the trash that so many of us once left behind at the target berm, when we're done shooting Champion's DuraSeal targets, we can head downrange to safely pick them up for reuse the next time we're out plinking. Or, if your range is a piece of your private property, you could certainly leave these out to endure the weather. The DuraSeal polymer is

not only weatherproof, it soaks up hundreds of rounds of any caliber without losing shape.

Champion's VisiChalk offers explosive action but without the concussive blast and considerations needed to minimize the fragmentary dangers. As the name implies, VisiChalk is chalk. It's available in several colors, and once it is hit, it breaks or turns to dust. Unused targets or crumbs of chalk that remain are environmentally friendly and simply dissolve outdoors.

This last summer, a few industry friends and I embarked on a 600-mile motorcycle trip through Utah. Interestingly, Utah has a public shooting range in almost every one of its counties, so a course was plotted featuring daily pit stops. When we arrived at Big Hollow Shooting Range near Heber City, the range was already set up with a steel dueling tree, swingers, gongs and other paper targets. However, the reactive DuraSeal animal and



VisiChalk Target \$29  
DuraSeal 5.5-in. Varmint \$20  
DuraSeal Bounce Ball \$22-\$36  
DuraSeal Bounce Star \$20

shape targets stole the show as they wobbled and bobbed with every hit.

As with most of my trips to the range, words got said and a challenge was thrown down. Four DuraSeal balls evenly spaced at 50 yards became a drag race. A Rock River LAR-15 and 30 rounds of HPR ammo were used to push them downrange. Whoever goes farthest after 30 rounds wins. It's a fun game that builds marksmanship skills on small, (at times) moving targets that get smaller the farther away they roll, and you need to repeatedly score hits to be competitive. Yes, these balls are round, but one hit doesn't exactly send them rolling straight down the range. Grooves molded into the shape of these balls allow bullets to strike at unusual angles and send them in angular directions. We roared laughing like my 4-year-old with a new toy as targets bounced crazily. Whose ball went farthest? Well, let's just say I lost the race. Champion may have saved Range Day for our kids as well as the one who remains in all of us.





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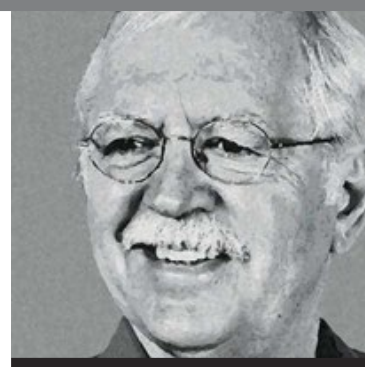
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*“First off, under no circumstances should you alter your Standard Grade Model 70 rifle from its original configuration.”*

## IDENTIFICATION & VALUES



GARRY JAMES

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assuming all mechanicals, etc., are in proper working order.

### CASED AYA SHOTGUN

**Q:** I want to tell you how very much I enjoy your values and I.D. column in G&A. I always read it first because it interests me most. I have a nice shotgun that I hope you can hazard a guess on regarding its value. It is a fine 12-gauge Model 51 AYA side-by-side, side lock, with two sets of barrels, with gold numbers “1” and “2” on the ribs. It has single select triggers, auto ejectors, a beavertail forend and much English-type scroll engraving on the action. The bores and wood are very good, as are bluing and case color. It is in an AYA fitted English leather case. The gun was purchased in 1957, and condition truly is remarkable for its age. All is excellent. The serial number is 961XX.

**N.N.D.**  
email

**A:** As this sort of shotgun is out of my area of expertise, I called upon my good friend and shotgun expert Terry Wieland for some help. He tells me that the Model 51 is a rather uncommon gun, yet Spanish shotguns like yours are not



PRE-'64 WINCHESTER MODEL 70, .375 H&amp;H, 98%: \$3,900

### PRE-'64 .375 MODEL 70

**Q:** As a new subscriber to Guns & Ammo, I have enjoyed your magazine and taken a particular interest in your “Gun Room” section. Over the years, I have collected a few guns. I have a pre-'64 Winchester Model 70 chambered in .375 H&H Magnum. It is in exceptional condition.

My question involves the lug bolts Winchester put through the stocks of its magnum rifles. On other .375s, I have seen lug bolts through the stock under the action. The stamp on the barrel reads “MODEL 70 - 375 H&H MAGNUM.” The serial number is 383XXX. Why do some .375s have the lug bolts while others don't? Do you

recommend that I have lug bolts installed? I have never fired the rifle. Is it safe to use without the lug bolts? How would such an alteration affect the value? Can you recommend where to have the installation done properly? I would appreciate any information you could give me.

**J.C.A.**  
email

**A:** First off, under no circumstances should you alter your Standard Grade Model 70 rifle from its original configuration. From the photos you sent, it appears to be in

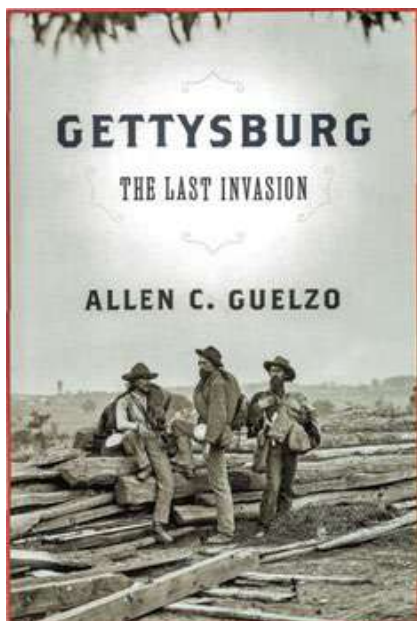
pristine condition, and as a pre-1964 gun (it was made in 1956), it has added value and appeal. The crossbolt was added to the Model 70 magnum models in 1966 to give added strength to the stock where stress was deemed the heaviest. While the crossbolt does help with heavy recoil, your gun is perfectly safe to shoot,

### THE AUCTION BLOCK

A fine cased Charles Boswell .500 Nitro Express double rifle belonging to the late Elmer Keith sold for a hefty \$59,800 including premiums at the March 15, 2015, James D. Julia auction. This used-but-not-abused boxlock has 24-inch Chopper lump barrels with a matted quarter rib and stippled front sight base, express rear sights and a finely marbled European-walnut buttstock. It comes in a fitted leather case, which shows some fading to the interior lining. This was Keith's “elephant rifle,” which he used to take several bulls. He mentioned it in a number of his stories, including “World's Biggest Game,” which was published in Guns & Ammo. For more information about this and future auctions, contact James D. Julia Inc., (800) 565-9298, jamesdjulia.com.







## RECOMMENDED READS

**“Gettysburg: The Last Invasion”** by Allen C. Guelzo, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2013, 632 pages

The Battle of Gettysburg, which took place on July 1 – 3, 1863, was the largest battle ever fought on American soil. It marked the turning point in the Civil War, presenting the South with a defeat from which it would never recover. If you want to learn more about this seminal event, “Gettysburg: The Last Invasion” is the book to read. Its author, Allen Guelzo, is the director of Civil War studies at Gettysburg College and a noted Lincoln scholar. His descriptions of the many facets of this complicated and sometimes confusing fight are presented with clarity in an engaging, authoritative, highly readable manner. Guelzo not only covers strategy and tactics but the personalities of the Union and Confederate leaders. Refreshingly, and unlike so many writers, he knows his firearm and artillery details well and presents them in their proper context. As of this writing, I’m in my second reading of this book and enjoying it even more the first time. This is simply one of the best Civil War histories I’ve encountered. **\$35**



WINCHESTER MODEL 97, 80%: \$400

really collected but mainly prized as shooters. In fact, he believes that good-grade Spanish doubles are among some of the best values on the market today. Assuming excellent condition, value on your piece would be in the neighborhood of \$5,500. If the barrels are less than 28 inches, that figure would be somewhat diminished.

## MODEL 97 STOCK CONFIGURATION

**Q:** I have an 1897 Winchester in 12 gauge with a 26-inch factory cylinder-choke barrel. The serial number is 550XXX. I acquired it around 15 years ago, and I’ve never seen one before or after with an English stock. The butt and forestock match for wood and finish, so they appear to have been made at the same time. Is this some sort of factory special order?

**P.R.**

**email**

**A:** True, the standard Model 97 came with a pistol-grip stock, but English-stock guns could be had on order. I have seen a number of them, so while interesting and having added value, they are not super-rare. FYI, your 97 was made in 1913. It might be worthwhile to contact the Cody Firearms Record Office at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West (307-578-4031, cfmrecords@

centerofthewest.org). For a fee, it can research your Winchester and send you what info it has on it. By the way, I just came back from the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming. The firearms collection is world-class, and the other sections of the museum, mainly treating on the history of Buffalo Bill Cody and other aspects of the West, are absolutely wonderful. I don’t think I’ve seen more Frederic Remington paintings in one place.

## MYSTERY REVOLVER

**Q:** When my dad passed, we came across this little six-shot revolver in his closet. We never knew Dad to talk about guns, much less own one. I shot 12 rounds through it, and it shoots just fine. There is no rust on the gun, but it has some tarnish on the nickel finish. Stamped inside the grips on the left are the “JMB” and “35” or “55,” and “ADH” is stamped on the right side. I have taken it to a bunch of gun shops, and no one can say for sure the age or value.

**R.M.H.**

**Peoria, Arizona**

**A:** I’m sorry, but from the details you have given me, it’s nigh on to impossible to give you any information. If you’d care to send some photos and more details, I’ll see what I can do. I’d like

to use this opportunity to ask those sending queries to include basic information such as style of arm, caliber, serial number, barrel length, finish, condition and all markings. Pictures — especially in a case such as this — are particularly helpful. Here, for instance, it would be useful to know whether the revolver is a topbreak or solid frame or has a swing-out cylinder.

## TED WILLIAMS MODEL 200

**Q:** I recently purchased a shotgun from a friend that I would like your help with. It is a Ted Williams-edition Sears, Roebuck & Co. 12-gauge shotgun, Model M200, 2¾ in., serial number P21XXX. It is stamped “Made in USA” and “No 273.515020.” It also has two stamps that look like “SP” or “SB” in a circle. It came with a case (that could be the original soft-case) that has “Sears” on the label. The little information I could find places it around 1967 to ‘69 at about \$200. I purchased it for \$150. Any information you can give me would be helpful. I plan on keeping this and someday handing it down to my son.

**J.L.**

**email**

**A:** The Ted Williams Model 200 was manufactured by Winchester. Actually, it’s nothing more than a Model





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1200 pump gun with the appropriate Sears markings substituted for those of Winchester. I'd say you paid about right for it.

### **COLT H-BAR AR-15 VALUE**

**Q:** I have a gun marked as follows on the left side of the receiver: "Colt/SPORT-ER/Competition/H-BAR/Cal .223/CH 009XXX." It appears to have been shot very little, if at all, with no scratches or blemishes on it. The owner's manual lists suitable ammunition as follows: "223 Remington (Rem) (5.56mm)." Is it safe to shoot 5.56 NATO ammo in this gun? Also, do you know what the barrel twist would be? Value?

**R.W.**

Laurel, Mississippi

**A:** Assuming all is well with the piece, you can fire 5.56 NATO ammo in your AR-15 H-BAR. Barrel twist is 1:9 inches. According to the "Thirty-Sixth Edition Blue Book of Gun Values ([bluebookofgunvalues.com](http://bluebookofgunvalues.com))," assuming the rifle is in 98 percent condition, it's worth \$1,700.

### **ITHACA DOUBLE**

**Q:** This gun was a gift to my great-nephew from his grandfather. It is an Ithaca side-by-side 12 gauge. I already found out it was made in 1893. It has Damascus barrels, there are pits on the inside, and there is a gap when the action is closed — a playing card will fit in it. It has a chip in the stock next to the triggerguard, and

the stock has two cracks that were pinned. It does have nice engraving on the action, and the forearm is in good shape. I do not believe it is restorable, but I am not an expert. I believe it is at best a wall hanger. I think my great-nephew would like to sell it, but I have no idea what to tell him as to its value. Can you help?

**K.K.**

email

**A:** From your pictures, it seems clear that you have an Ithaca hammerless. These guns were made for several decades beginning in 1880 in a number of different grades with both fluid steel and Damascus barrels. Your gun appears to be an average example in

poor condition (these were working guns and saw a lot of hard use). You are right about it being a wall hanger. Value is low, probably in the \$175 to \$250 range. Don't spend any money trying to restore it.

### **1911 COLT WITH EXTRAS**

**Q:** I have an old Colt 1911, serial number 1226XX, that's in pretty good shape, including the bore. It is marked "US Property" and on the mainspring housing is stamped "2 FANY A91." It appears to be blued and has about 80-plus percent remaining, with some on the top of the slide fading as well as on the high points. It does not seem to be refinished, arsenal or otherwise. It

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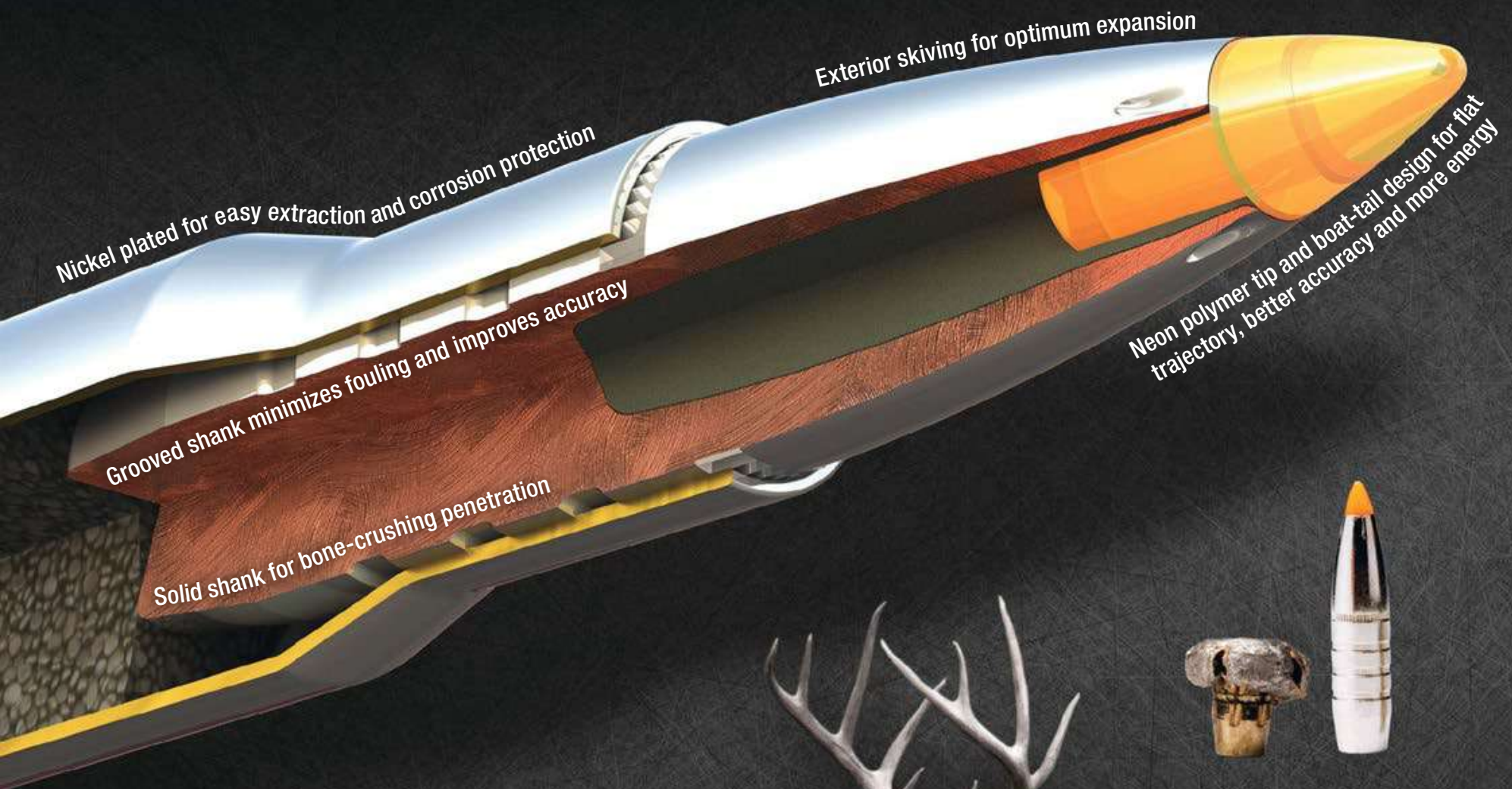
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came in the holster shown in the attached photos. I received this from a very old family acquaintance, now long gone (and, sadly, this Colt's story with it), many years ago, and I think he fought with it in World War I. Unfortunately, I don't know the gentleman's last name and have been unable to research him. There were seven rounds in the pictured magazine headstamped "REM-UMC 18." In a spare identical mag were seven rounds stamped "P.C. C O 18" in a two-round canvas mag pouch stamped inside "R.H. LONG" over "9-18" and another smaller stamp with what looks like initials "B 8 L," over "18." I'm not sure on the letters. I have written to a couple of

military historical societies on the East Coast hoping to find out what the main-spring stamping (2 FANY A91) means, to no avail. Can you help with that puzzle as well as tell me when the gun was made, its value, as well as the accessories? How about to what unit or service it was shipped to from Colt? Any and all info would be appreciated. I look forward to your articles on old guns, as I'm a fan of the old stuff, too. You can't beat blued steel and walnut.

**G.B.**

**Orting, Washington**

**A:** Thanks for the nice comment about my stories. Sounds like we think alike. From your photos, it looks

like you have a very nice 1911 Colt Government Model made in 1915. As you say, condition appears to be at least 80 percent, and because of this, the gun itself is worth a good, solid \$3,600. The holster is a U.S. Model 1916 manufactured by the S&R Company, of which not much is known. It also has a Second Pattern belt slide (which appeared after World War I) made by the Jeffersonville Quartermaster depot in Jeffersonville, Indiana, post-1921. Value on the holster and slide would be \$125 to \$150. I'm inclined to think the markings on your pistol might stand for 2nd New York Field Artillery. Perhaps one of my readers can enlighten us.

## SHOOTABLE 1911?

**Q:** A friend was given a 1911 Government Model. As far as I can tell, it is GI spec. Here is the kicker: It has a factory plugged bore, the slide is not drilled for a firing pin, and the slide-stop area on the frame has a recess. The big question is, can I fit a new slide and barrel to make it a shooter?

**G.R.**  
**email**

**A:** I'm afraid that "1911" can never be made shootable. It is a replica "nongun," manufactured in Japan. Your friend's mistake is understandable, as these can sometimes look pretty realistic — plus, they mimic the original's markings. At least the price was right. **G&A**

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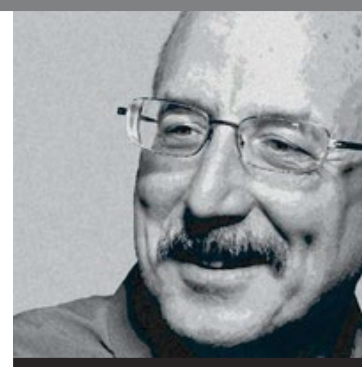
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*Everything old is new again.*



PATRICK SWEENEY

## IS 10mm BACK IN STYLE?

**APPARENTLY**, the route to real success in the entertainment business is through standup comedy. In that vein, here we go: Why did the 10mm cross the road? It didn't; it was kicked to the curb by the FBI.

Well, the 10mm is back. Unlike the .40, which replaced it in a market shift that could be called avalanche-like, the 10mm delivered what it had promised it would. The .40 overpromised and underdelivered. The 10mm performed as promised, but we found out that for a lot of shooters it turned out to be too much of a good thing.

Just three presidents before the unveiling of the .40, we had gone through the same thing when "Dirty Harry" made the .44 Magnum a fashion statement. It, too, was all it promised. I was working in gun shops back then, when you could still find the occasional used .44 Magnum for sale along with a box of ammo holding six fired rounds.

The 10mm came out, and I had a chance to fire a Bren Ten in 10mm. Wow! In 1984, a 200-grain bullet at 1,200 fps out of a pistol was a handful. Alas, the Bren Ten, despite the efforts of "Miami Vice," disappeared.

In 1987, Colt came out with the Delta Elite 1911 in 10mm, saving the cartridge; the FBI embraced it, promising a bright future; then we all went through the magnum déjà vu: *Damn, this thing kicks*. The FBI decided it couldn't get a staff full of white-collar workers to qualify with it as-is and kept watering it down until it was manageable. Then, its attention shifted to the .40 S&W like a kid with a shiny new toy on Christmas morning. I was caught in transition in the switch, finding myself with a full 10mm reloading setup and components galore. I put the 10mm gear on the shelf and loaded .40 S&W for a while before giving up on that, too, going back to .45 ACP.

So, why is the 10mm back? Why are there

suddenly more people making pistols in 10mm than ever? There are a few suspects, but I put the resurgence down to two things, besides the simple excellence of the design. First, people don't seem to shoot revolvers anymore; second, we are a lot more used to recoil than we used to be.

There's a big gun shop with an indoor range in the Detroit area called Double Action. I drop in from time to time to see the stock, use the indoor range and take photos of guns I don't own.

The sales cases are filled with pistols. The rental-gun cases are filled with pistols. The ammo shelves are laden with pistol ammo. Revolvers?

Rare. The 10mm was unveiled when Kelly LeBrock was the hottest thing on

the silver screen, and since then there has been a seismic shift

in handgun ownership, with more people than ever buying and

owning guns. The handguns they have bought have overwhelmingly

been pistols. I asked Al Allen, owner

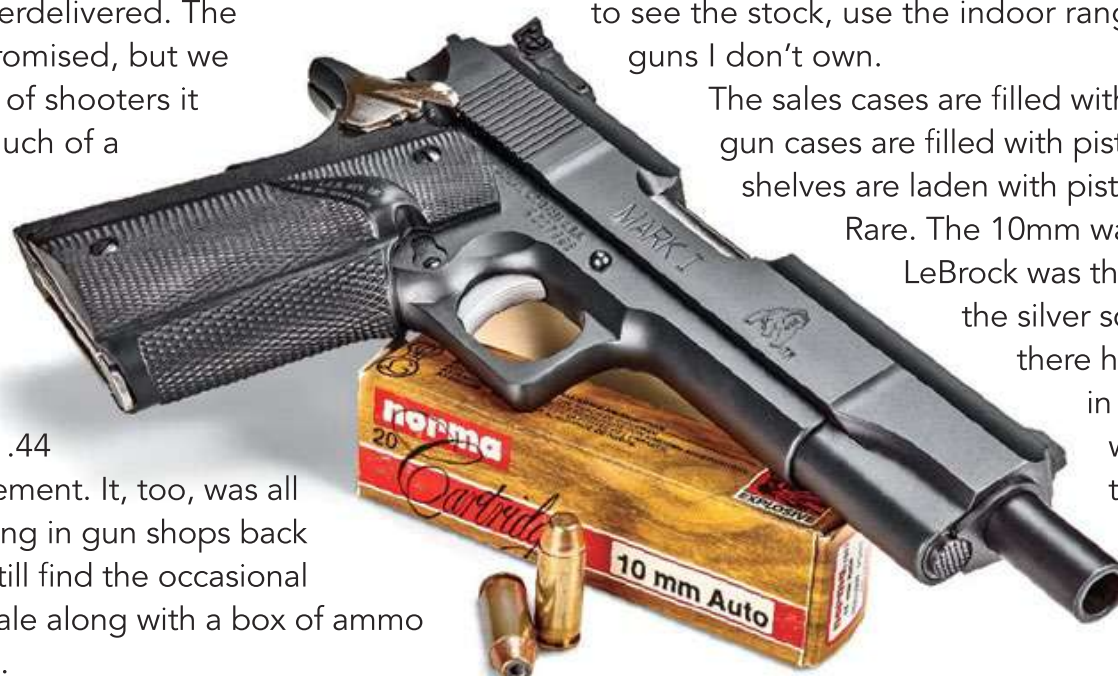
of Double Action, what the ratio was of pistols to revolvers. "Oh, it has to be nine to one, at least." People who buy handguns buy pistols these days.

I am as enamored with the .45 ACP as anyone, but even I know it has limits. Were I going places where the locals might stomp, bite and claw me, and were I taking a pistol, I would not be taking a .45 ACP. It would be a 10mm.

On the average, we are a lot more used to recoil than back in the days of popped collars and skinny ties. Even by the mid-1980s, it was the rare competitive shooter who shot in volume. The previous generation had seen 5,000

rounds a year as a robust shooting schedule. By the time I was heavy into competition, those aspiring to greatness shot 40,000 to 50,000 rounds a year, and even the average shooter was up to 1,000 or so.

Now, with progressive reloading presses being the



### COOPER ON HANDGUNS

"The 10, using a proper bullet shape, is theoretically slightly superior to the .45 in stopping power and demonstrably superior in reach."

—Jeff Cooper, January 1987



norm, going to the range and shooting off 200 rounds in one session is not unusual. A training class will use up 1,000 rounds. Monthly club matches will have you going through twice that annually just in the matches, let alone the practice and warm-ups you do the day before. (You do go to the range the day before the match and knock off the rust, don't you?)

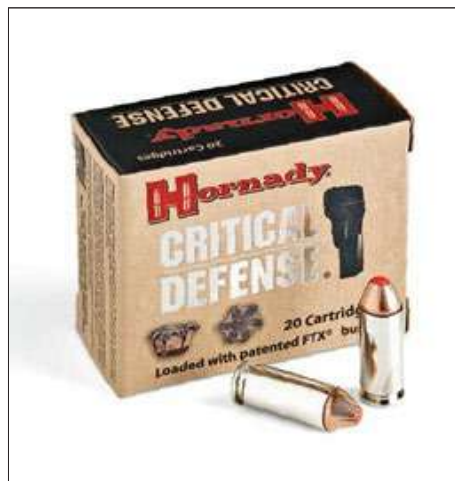
A couple of years of practice, monthly competition and a couple of classes and you've gotten past the 20,000-round mark.

If you're thinking of that fly-fishing trip to Alaska or going hunting up at the cabin, a 10mm now becomes attractive. Stuff it with the new Federal 10mm load, which uses a Trophy Bonded bullet, and you're good for a lot of hunting in the 48 states, plus bruin deterrence in Alaska.

When it comes to shooting and reloading, the 10mm is a joy. The case is dead-straight, so there are no worries about taper; you won't need to lube cases except in extreme situations. The case is so tough, it doesn't stretch.



Federal's Trophy Bonded 180-grain 10mm rocketed over our chrono at more than 1,200 fps.



Hornady's new 165-grain FTX is easy on the hands and provides reliable expansion.

You will not be leaving stuck cases in the sizing dies, and your pistol will always have a good handle to grab for extraction, as the case has a thick, strong rim.

It uses the same bullets that are ubiquitous for the .40, with .400 inch being the jacketed and .401 inch being the cast diameters you will look for. You can find bullets from 155 grains up to

220 to reload with. You can make it mild, with a felt recoil not unlike that of a moderate to brisk 9mm load, up to a bear-stomper (as much as any handgun can stomp) pushing a 220-grain hardcast bullet to 1,100 feet-per-second out of a full-size gun.

Oh, one detail you'll want to know: If you do shoot the 220s at 100, you'll practically have to stand on the handle of your press to resize the cases. That's where the case lube comes in, but they'll take it.

These cases last forever, use common components and are easy to find and handle (and tough). I have only ever

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blown a case in one caliber, in one pistol. It was a 10mm 1911. All I had to do was find the magazine parts, reassemble the magazine, reload and keep going.

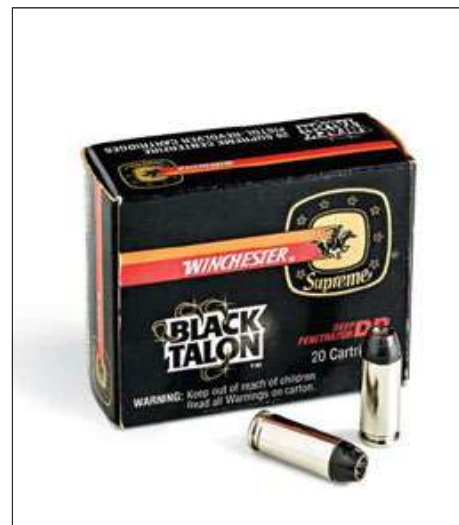
Accurate? The 10mm is as accurate as any pistol you put it in. You can have a match-grade, tackdriving 10mm pistol to go along with your equally accurate 9mm and .45 pistols if you want.

If you don't reload and just want something for defense, use Hornady, FTX or XTP, unless you need FBI performance; then you go with Critical Duty. For moderate-power practice, use CCI Blazer with 200-grain TMJs going just under 1,000 fps. SIG Sauer is offering its new V-Crown line in 10mm now, and I have found it to be excellent ammo. There is no longer a dearth of 10mm defensive ammo, and we're all the better for that.

There were some 10mm revolvers made by S&W and Ruger, but not many. With revolvers now selling at a steady simmer but with no prospects of ever moving up in sales, pistols are where it's at. If you want power, you have to go 10mm. In talking with our editor, I found out that the gun



New for 2015, SIG Sauer added two 10mm loads to its line of ammo, including this 180-grain FMJ at 1,250 fps.



Deep into our stash of 10mm, we discovered this rarity, Black Talon.

vault in Peoria has 10mm LAR Grizzly in G&A's permanent collection. That's what we thought you needed, back then, to handle a 10mm. Now we know better.

The next custom or semicustom 1911 I'm going to build will in all likelihood be a 10mm. (I already have a few Tens around here, but not many). Given the new loads with modern bullets that ammo makers are now offering, I can see it coming out to play a lot more often. Besides, I've still got a half-ton of 10mm-diameter bullets gathering dust on the shelves in my storage space. They need to see daylight, if only for a microsecond. **G&A**





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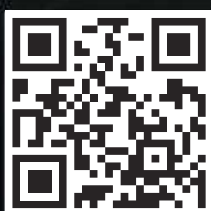


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## ARC'TERYX KHARD 30

**WITH THE GROWING POPULARITY** and demand for AR pistols, the next question exists: How to carry and conceal them?

Many of us have been on a quest to find an efficient way to carry a long gun without letting everyone know that we are. Most so-called "discreet" bags are anything but, and they are designed by tactical companies, making them easily spotted by even moderately trained eyes due to their design, "tactical" color choices and size. If you see a guy wearing a tactical tuxedo carrying a large skateboard-looking bag, chances are very good he's carrying a rifle in it.

Several years ago, the high-end outdoor brand Arc'teryx released a backpack called the Khard. The Khard is part of the company's LEAF Division, the products of which are aimed at the law enforcement and military markets. The pack is a fully padded, single-compartment bag. Not only does the padding protect the contents, it also helps maintain the bag's shape, giving it a 3D look. A full U-zip closure allows for top loading and side duffel access, or it unzips completely flat, exposing all contents or for use as a



field-expedient shooting mat. It is currently available in three sizes: 30, 45 and 60 liters.

A military unit that consulted with Arc'teryx during the design process

desired the ability to carry a Heckler & Koch MP7 within the main compartment of the bag. This was accomplished, thanks to the modularity afforded by swatches of Velcro strategically placed within the interior of the pack. This allowed industry partners to create a series of hook-backed pouches, or "inserts," compatible with the bag and afforded the user the ability to quickly organize and configure the pack to his needs.

One of those industry partners, Velocity Systems, has manufactured a collection of Velcro-backed pouches designed to enhance the usability of the Khard pack, several of them being firearm specific. These inserts are of



the highest quality and seamlessly integrate into the Khard series. For the purposes of this review, I utilized the Muzzle Capture Piece, MOLLE Panel Long, Dual 5.56 Magazine Pouch, Retention Strap and Medical Pouch, Large.

The Right Mix Law Tactical recently introduced its Gen 3 Folding Stock Adapter, designed to make AR-based rifles and pistols a more compact and easily stored platform. This is accomplished by allowing the receiver extension and stock to fold. The AR remains fully assembled, loaded and ready for deployment. I installed the LAW stock adapter on my own 9-inch-barreled Advanced Armament pistol chambered for .300 Blackout. With the stock folded, it is compact enough to fit into the Khard 30 with room to spare. I've found



that the pack is deep enough to accommodate AR pistols or SBRs with barrel lengths up to 11½ inches, depending on the muzzle device.

The Draw G&A's testing procedure for this "Carry Rig" column was slightly modified given the increased effective range of an AR-type pistol. We settled on one-shot draws at 25 yards from behind a barricade with a magazine inserted. The chamber was empty to better simulate

how I have been carrying this setup day to day. The target remained the A-zone of an IPSC-style target.

Several levels of retention must be defeated before the draw can be completed. The shooter would start with a pack strap on one shoulder to simulate entry or egress from a vehicle. At the sound of the Pact timer's beep, the

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|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Arc'teryx</b>                     | <b>Khard 30</b>   |
| <b>Materials</b>                     | 500D nylon Cordura  |
| <b>Carry Type</b>                    | Off-body carry  |
| <b>Retention Type</b>                | Specialized strap with buckle, Velocity Systems muzzle capture insert   |
| <b>Adjustability</b>                 | Ride height   |
| <b>MSRP</b>                          | \$359   |
| <b>Handgun Fit</b>                   | AR pistol (tested ) or short-barreled rifle (SBR)   |
| <b>Accessory Rail Accommodations</b> | N/A   |
| <b>Positions to Carry</b>            | Back, shoulder carry  |
| <b>Average Time to Attach</b>        | 7 seconds   |
| <b>Comfort Rating</b>                | 5/5   |
| <b>Concealment Clothing</b>          | None  |
| <b>Average Draw-to-Fire Time</b>     | 8.09 seconds  |
| <b>Manufacturer</b>                  | Arc'teryx LEAF, 855-201-5307, leaf.arcteryx.com<br>Velocity Systems, 703-707-6280, velsyst.com<br>Law Tactical, 267-209-0529, lawtactical.com |


Draw-to-fire time is the average of five clean draws from the pack, presented to a stationary target positioned at 75 feet with an A-zone hit.



shooter then swings the pack off of his back and places it upright on the ground, unzips the top zipper, unfolds the stock, releases the retention strap, grasps the pistol grip with the firing hand, begins the draw, charges the pistol with the support hand, obtains a sight picture, and fires one shot at the target. Time.

While this may sound complicated and slow, my first, or cold-draw, time was surprisingly quick: 7.34 seconds and a

dead-center hit. My five-shot average was 8.09 seconds. If I did not utilize the internal retention strap, I could get this time down into the mid-five-second range.

This pack and its available inserts are specialized items, and we find that they are priced accordingly. If your job or personal needs require that you carry an AR pistol or SBR, you would be hard pressed to find a better option. 

— Chris Mudgett

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# ShadowTech HOG and PIG Rifle Saddles Leupold 6x30mm BX-1 Yosemite Binoculars



TOM BECKSTRAND

## THE PIG SADDLE

I'M ALWAYS ON THE PROWL for ways to improve my shooting, especially in the weirdo shooting positions that field conditions seem to generate. I learned long ago that shooting off a tripod was better than using shooting sticks and that shooting sticks were better than nothing. What remained a bit of a mystery was the best way to attach a tripod to our rifle, a mystery that the PIG Saddle solves.

"PIG" in this case stands for "Professionally Instructed Gunman," a slang term used in the Marine Corps to describe Marines assigned to a Surveillance and Target Acquisition (STA) platoon and awaiting sniper training. The PIG Saddle is a clamp that attaches to most tripods and securely holds our rifle. It is invaluable for field-shooting scenarios because we so rarely take shots from the prone while hunting.

Joshua Stabler is a former Marine sniper and Iraq War veteran who started the company that designed and built the PIG Saddle. Back when Joshua and I attended the Marine Corps' advanced sniper school, students frequently fabricated supports from PVC pipe sections sawed in half and lined with closed-cell foam and tape. These homemade supports cradled our rifle atop a tripod. The contraption was considered a crucial piece of equipment because so many field shots occurred in areas where the prone wasn't possible, just like when hunting.

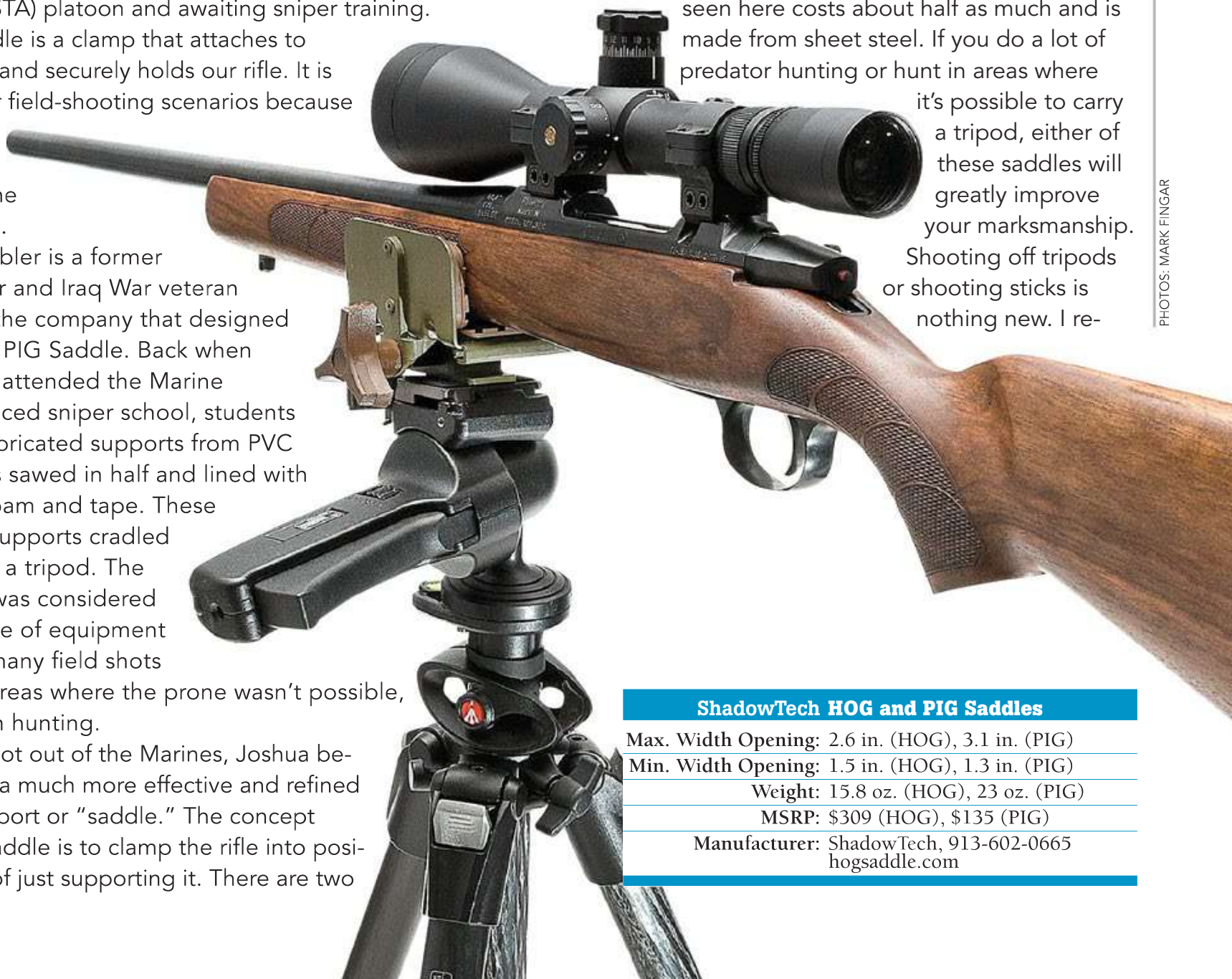
Once he got out of the Marines, Joshua began building a much more effective and refined shooting support or "saddle." The concept behind the saddle is to clamp the rifle into position instead of just supporting it. There are two

threaded holes in the bottom of each saddle that fit either directly onto a tripod or into standard camera-mounting accessories, allowing the use of adjustable heads that make positioning the saddle easy. A three-sided plastic handle controls a large screw that opens and closes the saddle, accommodating a wide variety of forend widths.

The more expensive and lighter model is the HOG Saddle. (HOG is Marine Corps-speak for "Hunter Of Gunmen," a term reserved for graduates of USMC sniper school.) It is made from CNC'd aluminum. The PIG Saddle

seen here costs about half as much and is made from sheet steel. If you do a lot of predator hunting or hunt in areas where

it's possible to carry a tripod, either of these saddles will greatly improve your marksmanship. Shooting off tripods or shooting sticks is nothing new. I re-



PHOTOS: MARK FINGAR

| ShadowTech HOG and PIG Saddles |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Max. Width Opening:            | 2.6 in. (HOG), 3.1 in. (PIG)              |
| Min. Width Opening:            | 1.5 in. (HOG), 1.3 in. (PIG)              |
| Weight:                        | 15.8 oz. (HOG), 23 oz. (PIG)              |
| MSRP:                          | \$309 (HOG), \$135 (PIG)                  |
| Manufacturer:                  | ShadowTech, 913-602-0665<br>hogsaddle.com |

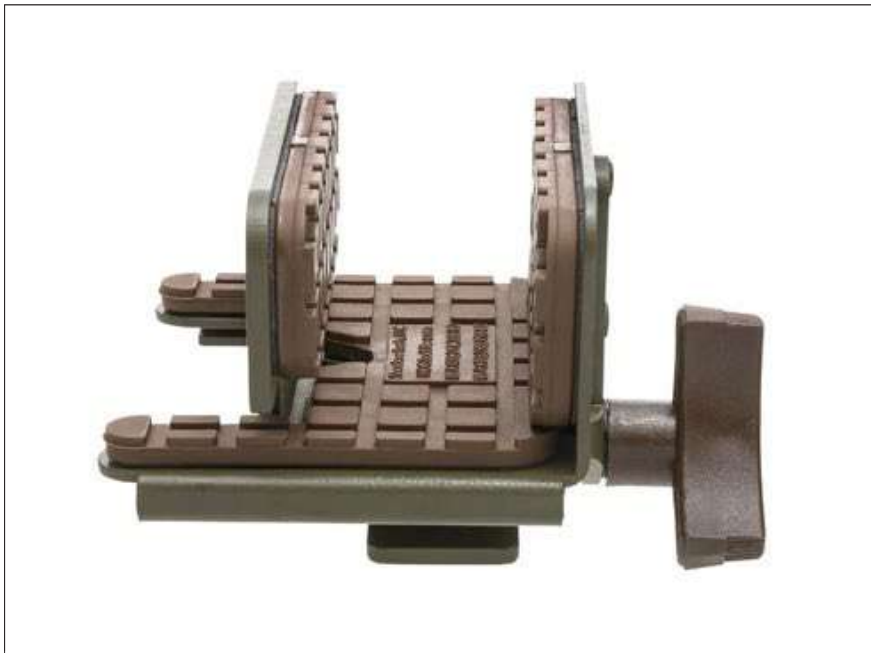


cently returned from a plains-game hunt in Africa where every shot I fired was either from the standing, kneeling or sitting position, with five of the seven shots taken off a tripod. The problem is that most shooting tripods or stick setups have a simple U-shaped cradle to support the rifle. A simple support is better than nothing, but the PIG Saddle offers improvement of another order of magnitude in performance just because it clamps and locks the rifle in position.

Obviously, the less movement we have once we're ready to shoot, the more accurate we'll be. The beauty of the PIG Saddle is that it's a big, rubber-lined clamp that we tighten down once we get into position, eliminating much of the shooter-induced rifle movement that causes us to miss. The clamping action means the rifle isn't held in place with muscular tension, so the jitters and wobbles go

away and our hit probability goes up. Some are likely to say, "Well, I'm not a sniper, so I don't really need anything like that." I'm not a sniper anymore either, but I want, need and use one because I like to hit my target when I shoot my rifle. While the HOG Saddle is standard-issue gear for Marine Corps' Scout-Snipers, hunters and civilian shooters will benefit substantially from using the HOG or PIG saddle.

Effective rifle shooting starts with our ability to get into a stable shooting position. We're at our best when we're as low to the ground as possible, our position doesn't rely on muscular tension, and we've got as much contact between us, our rifle and other solid objects as possible. The HOG and PIG saddles make significant improvements to the last two components of that equation and are key pieces of equipment for serious rifle shooters.



The PIG Saddle has a wide adjustment range and can fit most any forend. The screw-actuated clamp and rubber liner make it a very stable rest.



The adapter plate in the saddle's bottom has two threaded holes of different sizes. One fits standard tripod heads sold in camera stores, and the other threads directly to most tripods.

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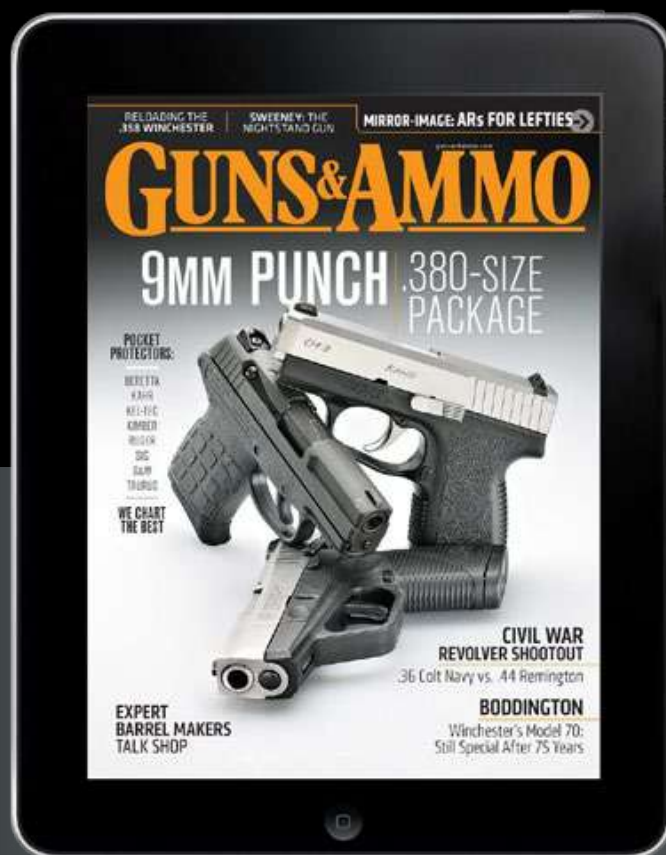
**MY 2-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER** is quite the princess, and it's been making me nervous. Left to her own devices, I fear she'll become one of those women who never sets foot in the great outdoors or learns to appreciate the quiet solitude found only in the woods. Her proclivity for all things pink, tiara and tutu recently forced me act. A few months back, I walked her down to the river



located near our home and taught her how to throw rocks in the water. She loves it, mostly because of the splash the rocks make. Her newfound passion for rock throwing sparked an interest in rock collecting so that her time river-



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The BX-1 binos can accommodate everyone from small children to mature adults, thanks to the wide interpupillary adjustment range.

side can be more focused on throwing and less on searching for things to throw. Sensing an opportunity to stoke her budding interest in outdoor activities, I also bought her a pair of binoculars so we can check things out on our walks to the river. We call her binos her “big eyes.”

Buying binoculars for a 2-year-old is a lot harder than it seems. Obviously, I didn’t want to get anything expensive, because she often drops whatever is in her hands. So, I looked for binos that were inexpensive and tough. The next step was to find a set with an interpupillary distance (the space between our eyeballs) that fit both of us, her eyes being much closer together than mine. My efforts led to Leupold’s BX-1 Yosemite.

I purchased the BX-1s from Brownells for the princely sum of \$90, and I think it’s the best money I’ve spent in a long time. The 6x30mm BX-1 binos are small and light, and they have an interpupillary adjustment range that fits both my daughter and me perfectly. They are handy enough that my daughter carries them well, and they’re rugged enough that they’ve absorbed several impacts with the trail that leads to the river. I’ve even become attached to them because they’re so easy to haul around that I reach for them often just to see what I find in the woods next to our home.

What surprised me the most about the Yosemite binoc-

---

BUYING BINOCULARS FOR  
A 2-YEAR-OLD **IS A LOT  
HARDER** THAN IT SEEMS.

---



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### Leupold 6x30mm BX-1 Yosemite

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Power:                   | 6X  |
| Objective:               | 30mm  |
| Prism Design:            | Porro   |
| Focus:                   | Center, with diopter adjustment               |
| Length:                  | 4.8 in.                                       |
| Weight:                  | 1 lb., 1 oz.                                  |
| Interpupillary Distance: | 2 to 2.75 in.                                 |
| Eye Relief:              | 2 to 2.75 in.                                 |
| MSRP:                    | \$129   |
| Manufacturer:            | Leupold Optics<br>800-538-7653<br>leupold.com |

ulars was their optical quality. Image quality is great, even out on the edges. I had low expectations because, after all, I only paid \$90 for them. Most of the binoculars I'm familiar with are roof-prism designs, not the porro prism found on the Yosemite. Roof-prism binos have straight barrels, are more compact and cost a lot more because the incoming image gets split and manipulated much more than the older porro-prism models.

The Yosemite BX-1 binoculars are the older porro-prism design and are much easier to manufacture, which is why they offer good optical quality for the money. Porro prisms are usually bigger and heavier than roof-prism binoculars, which is why roof-prism binos are more popular now. The BX-1 binos, though they are porro prisms, are still very compact and light due to their relatively low magnification. They are 6x30mm binoculars, so they're not the best choice for glassing in the mountains out west, but they are more than adequate for general use, especially for young children. I use our set more than my daughter does, but she loves them, too.

I can't think of a better field test than to turn a 2-year-old loose with a set of binoculars. The BX-1s have held up to a couple months of abuse, and both my daughter and I have become attached to them. More important, my little girl thinks the outdoors is a lot more interesting now that she can spy on birds and squirrels. **GA**

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*“Not all pistol buffer tubes are created equal.”*



CHRIS MUDGETT

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Pistol buffer tubes lack provisions to attach a conventional or collapsible stock and must be used on buffer-tube-equipped receivers first transferred on ATF Form 4473 as a “pistol.” Many tubes are not compatible with a stabilizing brace. This pistol buffer tube from BCM is. **\$39**

## PISTOL EXTENSIONS

**CREDIT GOES TO SIG SAUER** for bringing its ATF-compliant SB15 Stabilizing Brace, a.k.a the “Not-A-Stock,” to market. This accessory is largely responsible for the resurgence and popularity of AR-type pistols as of late. Not all pistol receiver extensions and buffer tubes are created equal. Many have variations in length and tube diameter.

Some manufacturers’ tubes fit the SIG brace like a glove, and others are too thin. Not using the right tube will result in excessive movement during use. Others are too long,

allowing the end of the tube to extend beyond the end of the brace (as illustrated above).

The aftermarket has weighed in, producing purpose-built tubes with a compatible thickness. Thoughtful features distinguish each from the other, such as knurling and shoulders machined into the tube. The length of pull is longer, albeit fixed. These shoulders also prevent the brace from inching forward under recoil — or while mortar-clearing a malfunction where the bolt won’t retract. **MA**



**Phase 5 Tactical Hex-2 Buffer Tube**  
The Hex-2 is constructed of 7075 T7 billet aluminum and can be used with the SB15 brace or as a chin support using the included foam pad. **\$60**



**Doublestar Pistol Tube Assembly**  
The DSC pistol tube includes an ambisling attachment endplate, a carbine buffer and a spring. A wrench tightens it to the receiver, so no castle nut is used. **\$60**



**Midwest Industries Pistol Buffer Tube**  
The MI pistol buffer tube is constructed of 6061 aluminum and fits flush with the SIG SB15 brace. The machined shoulder keeps the brace from sliding forward and offers the longest length of pull. **\$45**



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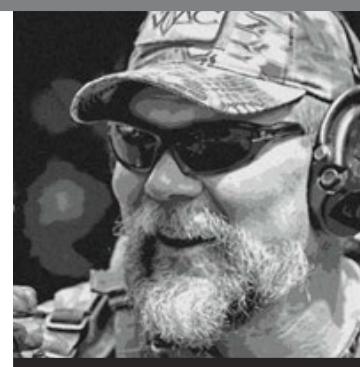
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## COMBAT MINDSET: PART III

**IN PARTS I AND II** of this series, we discussed the importance of combat mindset. Part 1 focused on before the fight, being prepared for whatever might come your way and how to better accomplish this. Part 2 discussed during the fight, what will happen and not hoping you have the right training but knowing you have the right training.

Before the fight is the most important phase of this combat mindset mission. If you are not prepared for the fight, you will have difficulty during the fight and may not make it to the “after the fight” phase. Once you have made it through the fight, what can you expect after?

If you were prepared and all is well, you can expect that things in your life will change. Whether or not you have taken a life doesn’t matter; you will be a changed person, some for the better, some for the worse. I can’t look into a crystal ball and tell you where you will stack up with others who have had the same experiences; you can’t see the future either.

If you reflect back to the “before” phase and you are a police officer, you might be under investigation or part of an investigation. The powers that be may also have taken away your firearm for investigative purposes. Remember, this is just the process that will be followed for every shooting in your jurisdiction. If you are not the shooter but a friend, family member or fellow officer of the shooter, this is the time when the officer involved in that shooting needs you the most. We must stand shoulder to shoulder beside our fellow warriors. You and I don’t know what is going through the shooter’s head, so we must be present for duty to support that person in any way possible. Treating an officer who was recently involved in a confrontation any differently than other officers is a mistake. We need to be there to talk about whatever the situation might be regardless of whether it has anything to do with the shooting itself. Codding a recently tested warrior is not for me. That person has done his or her job, and since the officer is alive, he or she must have done it pretty well, so let that officer know that.

Get a new firearm zeroed. Grab the new issue pistol or carbine that is required after yours is transferred into evi-

dence for investigative purposes, and head to the range. This is a good way to get back in the fight.

**Hot Wash** “Hot wash” or “lessons learned” is really important in this situation. If you won the fight, that doesn’t mean



The Inter-Continental hotel in Kabul, Afghanistan, was under siege on June 28, 2011, by Taliban fighters. These members of New Zealand’s well-trained SAS played a major role on the ground in ending the five-hour attack. Two members of the team were injured. Photo by Pedro Ugarte/Getty Images

you still can’t improve the situation if it happens again, whether to you or a fellow officer. Telling stories around the campfire or when hanging out with your friends is a good way to pass on lessons learned. This isn’t boasting; this is discussing the situation honestly with your team or friends. That is, of course, if your friends understand. All of my friends are people who shoot. I can’t think of one who doesn’t. Passing on info will help you discuss what happened and help others be prepared if they find themselves in a similar situation.

**Back Into Training** Just because you won a fight doesn’t give you a pass on the next training day. As soon as the current fight is over, it’s time to analyze what went right and, more important, what went wrong and start training again. We should always be trying to take our skill set — be it shooting, leading or understanding — to the next level. I have always felt like I needed more training after the fight than before. I had a real-world scenario that was near



and dear to my heart that showed glaring holes in training, technique or tactics. So, back to the drawing board I went. You can never become too trained.

**Do you need help?** If you feel you need help, get it. Many would say, "Just suck it up and drive on," and this might work for some, but others in our line of work might require a few discussions with professionals to get their mind right. There are plenty of people to talk to and organizations that are there to help. Don't take these troubles to your family; get some real help, whether it be with your pastor or a

psychologist. If you do choose to go to a psychologist, see one who has been involved with these situations before. There are plenty of shrinks who are not our friends, but that is another story.

**Fallen Soldiers** If for some reason you lose a fellow officer or soldier, that is the time when we really need to step up. If you are the one the family looks to for support, please give it to them. Don't shy away from this task; help out where you can, and the family will usually appreciate the effort. If the fallen officer has children, we must make sure they get

what they need, not just for the immediate future but well down the road. This is a tough one, but wouldn't you want your children and spouse taken care of?

**Summary** Whether it's before, during or after the fight doesn't matter. These phases are all important, and you simply will not be successful in winning the fight if you don't have a plan for each phase.


**Before.** Try and be prepared physically and mentally, hone your skills and know your equipment.


**During.** You are on your own. You will be evaluating whether you were truly prepared by your training. No one will be there to hold your hand.

**After.** Once the fight is over, you will be a winner or a loser. Now the work really begins. What additional training do you think you need?


Having the mental preparation for the fight is great, but unless you also have the technical and tactical capabilities, you are not going to do well. Physical fitness, shooting skills, thinking skills and coping skills are all important. This doesn't mean you have to be an Olympic-level runner and shooter to thrive, but you do have to move your body weight and possibly the weight of a loved one or fellow officer, all while staying switched on to threats around you.

Get out and train. There isn't an excuse not to do so periodically. If you have time to stop at the bookstore or sit in front of the television or Internet, you have time to train. Dry-fire the scenarios that might be pertinent to you in the next fight.




Never give up, never stop learning, and always stay in the fight! 



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### CORE15 ROSCOE RB1 .223/5.56

Type: Direct impingement,  
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Caliber: .223 Rem./5.56 NATO

Capacity: 30 rds.

Barrel: 10.5 in.

Overall Length: 28.25 in.

Weight: 6 lbs., 4.8 oz. (tested)

Finish: Anodized (aluminum),  
Nitride (steel)

Grips: Ergo Swift

Sights: None

Trigger: 5 lbs., 11 oz. (tested)

MSRP: \$990

Manufacturer: CORE Rifle Systems  
352-401-9667  
core15rifles.com

### CORE15 ROSCOE RB2 300 BLK

Type: Direct impingement,  
rotating bolt, semiautomatic

Caliber: .300 Blackout

Capacity: 30 rds.

Barrel: 10.5 in.

Overall Length: 28.25 in.

Weight: 6 lbs., 1 oz. (tested)

Finish: Anodized (aluminum),  
Nitride (steel)

Grips: Ergo Swift

Sights: None

Trigger: 6 lbs., 8 oz. (tested)

MSRP: \$990

Manufacturer: CORE Rifle Systems  
352-401-9667  
core15rifles.com





WORDS BY PATRICK SWEENEY | PHOTOS BY MIKE ANSCHUETZ, PATRICK SWEENEY & SEAN UTLEY

# HANDGUNS?

*CORE15 has a new pair of Roscoes.  
(And oh boy, what a set.)*







If you own a Roscoe Combo including the RB2 pistol and R1 upper, be conscious of what cartridge you are loading into the upper you have installed on the lower. A .223 Rem./5.56 NATO round can be fed into a .300 BLK chamber and vice versa. The results can be dangerous.



**THIS MAY COME AS A SHOCK** to those who know me, but I wasn't always on the cutting edge of fashion, fad, trends and slang. No, really. When AR-15-based pistols first made their appearance, I was ... underwhelmed. It didn't help that back in the early days of what has now become the modern sporting rifle era, the proponents of same insisted on barrels as short as 7 inches. They were all giddy about "pistols" that were hard to hold and aim, produced flash-bang levels of muzzle blast and flash, and on top of all that, produced ballistics more like a .22 Magnum than a .223 Remington. You can understand why I wasn't eager to sign up.

Then we got smarter about ARs in general, and AR pistols in particular, and the situation got better. This brings me to this chapter of the ongoing chronicle of the AR: CORE15 Roscoes. The RB1 and RB2 are the latest offerings from CORE15, a group of guys who work hard down in sunny Florida making AR rifles, and now pistols, that are hard to find fault with.

The 1 and the 2 have much in common. Let's give the common details a quick look. As are all CORE15 rifles, they are both made from forged 7075-T6 alloy, machined to Mil-Spec or tighter dimensions. They are all given the proper Type III, Class II hardcoat-anodized finish with nickel-acetate sealant as the last step.

The uppers are both flattop

The ERGO Swift Grip steepens the angle at which your hand rides on the pistol, and it tucks your elbow in. This grip is designed for compact shooting positions and short lengths of pull.

with M4 feed ramps, and the handguards are Key-Mod, 9½ inches long and securely affixed to the upper receiver (more on that in a bit). The rails are laser etched with numbers, so if you take off something, you can get it back in the right spot.

Inside the upper, there is a proper Carpenter 158 alloy bolt inside of a Mil-Spec 8620 alloy carrier, chrome-lined carrier bore and chrome-lined gas key. The bolt is shot peened to relieve stress, and the carrier key, I was pleased to note, is well and properly staked. The carrier group is charged by means of the CORE15 Hardcore billet-cut charging handle — in the case of the Roscoes, its V2 charging handle.

The barrels are 4150 chrome-moly-vanadium alloy and given a black nitride finish. The muzzle ends in a Midwest Industries flash hider, its angle-slot version.

The buffer tube is a KAK Industries pistol-only buffer tube, meaning it has no provisions for fitting a buttstock to it, but internally it provides the full travel

distance the carbine buffer system requires. The difference between the R1 and R2, and the RB1 and RB2, is that the "B" Roscoes have the SB15 Pistol Stabilizing Brace already installed.

The lower receivers have the CORE15 oversize triggerguard; they have chevrons machined into the front face of the magazine well, for those who favor that as a gripping point; and the selector lever markings





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are pictograms. The pistol grip comes is ERGO's new Swift Grip, and, for me at least, it is a point of departure but one that's easy to change.

Inside, the firing mechanism is composed of standard single-stage GI-like parts but fitted to a better degree of function than your standard rack-grade AR. The military spec allows M16s to have a trigger pull from 5½ pounds up to 9½ pounds, while M4s may have trigger pulls from 5½ to 8½ pounds. The CORE15 RB1 and RB2, while using parts with the similar geometry, are machined on their engagement surfaces to a smoother finish. The result is a trigger pull down at the bottom of the allowed Mil-Spec range or below. The trigger on our RB1 test sample measured 5 pounds, 11 ounces, and the RB2 produced a 6-pound, 8-ounce trigger pull fresh out of the box. If they are like other ARs I've tested, with a bit of shooting (and even dry firing), they'll lose a half-pound off those weights.

The pistols themselves have a listed weight of 6 pounds, 7 ounces. In a world where an M4gery tips the scales at 7½ pounds, the two Roscoes are light enough that when you first pick up one, you could misjudge the weight.

They each arrive in a hardcase with a CORE15 dog tag, owner's registration, stickers and a Magpul 30-round PMAG.

**So, how do they differ?** Simple: The RB1 is chambered in 5.56, and the RB2 is in .300 Blackout. To keep them straight, CORE15 laser-engraved ".300 Blackout" on the open side of the ejection-port cover, so when you load it, the door will pop open and you'll know which one is which. No caliber? That's the 5.56. A chambering of .300 Blackout? Yes, it say so right there on the cover.



The top rail comes sans sights, which saves us money at the bottom line. (Don't feel cheated. You know you were going to put your own set of sights on anyway.)

The brace can be used as a "chin rest" (below left) where the shooter uses his chin to help index for aiding sight picture. The other method is to strap the brace around the forearm (below right) and grip the pistol normally. Don't be surprised if the weight of the pistol tires your wrist and forearm and causes you to rotate the pistol in order to see through the sight.

There are a couple of other differences. The 5.56 has a barrel that is 10½ inches long and has a twist of 1:7 inches. Therefore, you are good to go with every bullet weight you can reasonably expect to be shooting. (If you want to track down some 90- or 100-grain bullets and load them up for 600-yard plinking, you really

must be bored with regular shooting.) The .300 Blackout has a 10½-inch barrel, and the twist in it is similarly 1:7, in recognition that there will be a whole lot of shooters expecting to put heavyweight subsonic loads through the RB2.

There is another difference between them, but you'd have to look closely or take the handguard off to see. The RB1 has a carbine-length direct-gas system, and the RB2 has a pistol-length direct-gas system. The pistol-length system has a much shorter gas tube, closer to the chamber, in deference to the expected use with heavyweight bullets and subsonic loads. The tiny powder charge in the subsonic ammo (on the order of nine grains of slow-burning pistol powder) means that by the time the bullet has gotten out to the gas port of a carbine system, the residual pressure is insufficient to drive the system. You get a short-stroke or no stroke at all.

The pistol-length system, with the port closer to the bore, means subsonic ammo works in a self-loading rifle. It also means that the supersonic loads may over-drive the system, leading to harsher recoil, but you can't get something for nothing. The carbine length gas tube in the 5.56 still has enough extra barrel length that the gas dwell time produces enough energy to work the action.

What neither of them has are sights. This is a good choice on the part of CORE15, as the selection of aftermarket sights, just in irons alone, is so dizzying

*Continued on page 62*





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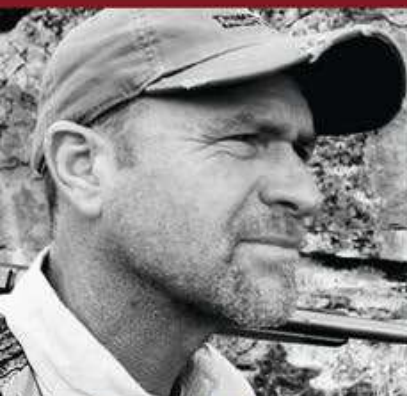


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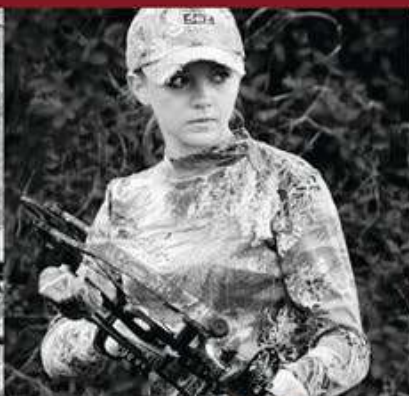


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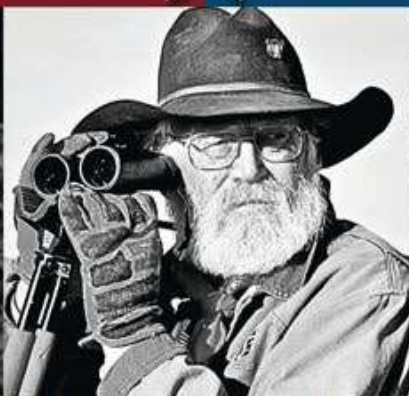
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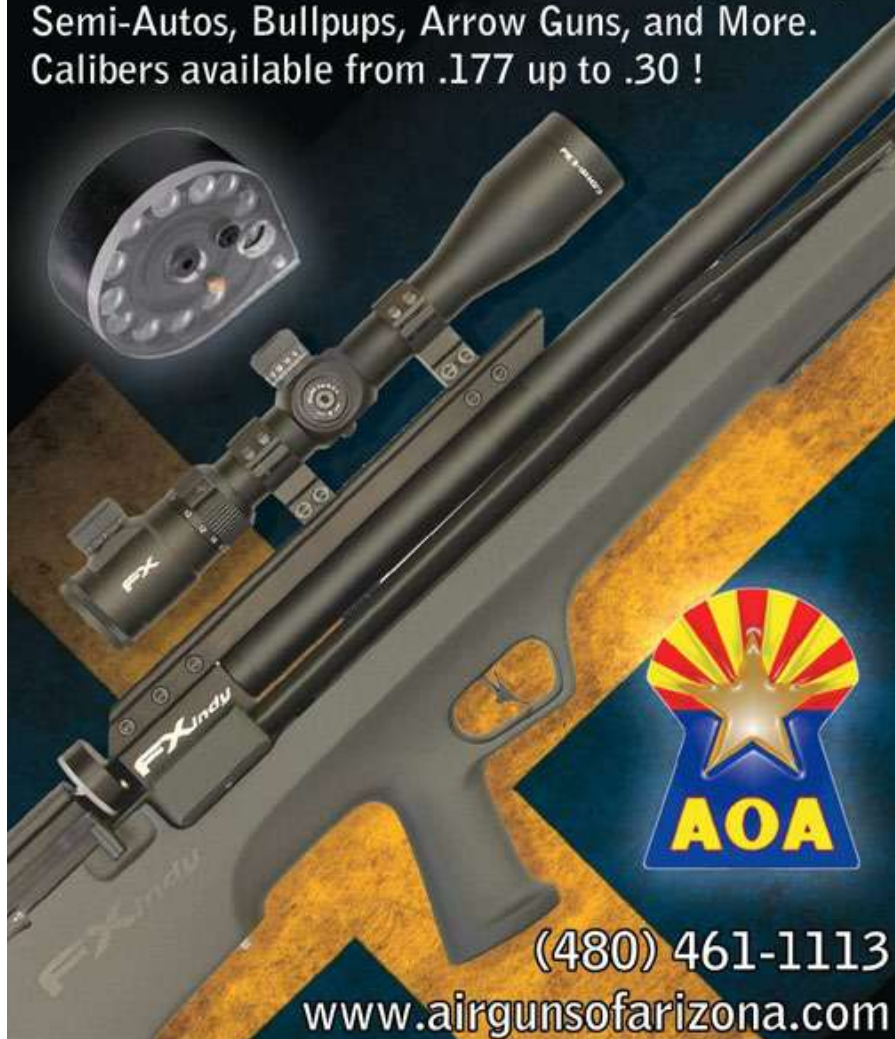
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Continued from page 58 that you could spend all day just trying to look at the choices and still not find them all. No matter what CORE15 put on the Roscoes, there would be a significant number of shooters who wanted something else. So, blank slate it is, and put on the sights you love.

Since I was going to be doing accuracy testing, this meant optics, and the flattop upper made that easy. I simply took my much abused Leupold 1.1-8X CQBSS in its LaRue mount and attached it on top.

At this point, it is useful to look at the handguard and the top rail. The rail is a sculpted tube with KeyMod slots machined into it, and the handguard is bolted to the barrel nut sleeve. The handguard is held on by means of six Allen-head bolts — two each at 3, 6 and 9 o'clock — and the sleeve also

has a raised rib on the tip to keep the top rail of the KeyMod handguard aligned.

I've seen (and done it myself) railed handguards yanked out of alignment by muscling on a vertical grip bolted to the handguard. The rib on the sleeve adds rigidity to the handguard and acts to prevent too strong a grip twisting things out of alignment.

For those who might have been asleep the last couple of years, KeyMod is a means of attaching accessories directly to the handguard instead of to fixed Picatinny rails. That CORE15 uses a KeyMod design, which helps explain how it made the two Roscoes so light.

The 9½-inch handguard offers KeyMod attachment points and guards the pistol-length gas system inside.

The two gas systems are pictured. The shorter pistol-length is the .300 Blackout, designed to ensure reliable function with subsonic loads.



PHOTO: SEAN UTLEY

Though ejection kicks out brass to the right, both Roscoes are forgiving for left-hand shooting since the pistol is usually held farther from the shooter's face.

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The pistol grip is another matter. I like slim pistol grips. The old A2, especially with the finger hook, is horrible, too big, and it should be changed. However, the ERGO Swift Grip is not just slim, it's also angled differently. The ERGO comes down off the receiver at a sharper angle (like a PDW grip), more toward the magazine well. The idea is to keep shooters from "chicken-wing"-ing their shooting arm. The angle pulls the elbow down and in, keeping you from poking it out in the classic offhand position you see at target ranges with more traditional straight-stock rifles. It also puts the wrist in a more comfortable position when it's on the pistol grip and the muzzle is down at low ready.

Now, if you haven't spent the last three decades learning bad habits, you really should give the ERGO Swift Grip a try. Don't just immediately change it when your Roscoe arrives.

**How well do these pistols shoot?** Very well, indeed. The barrel lengths are more in line with what we now know to be good ballistic efficiency balanced with tactical need. The 7-inch barrels of yesteryear were just



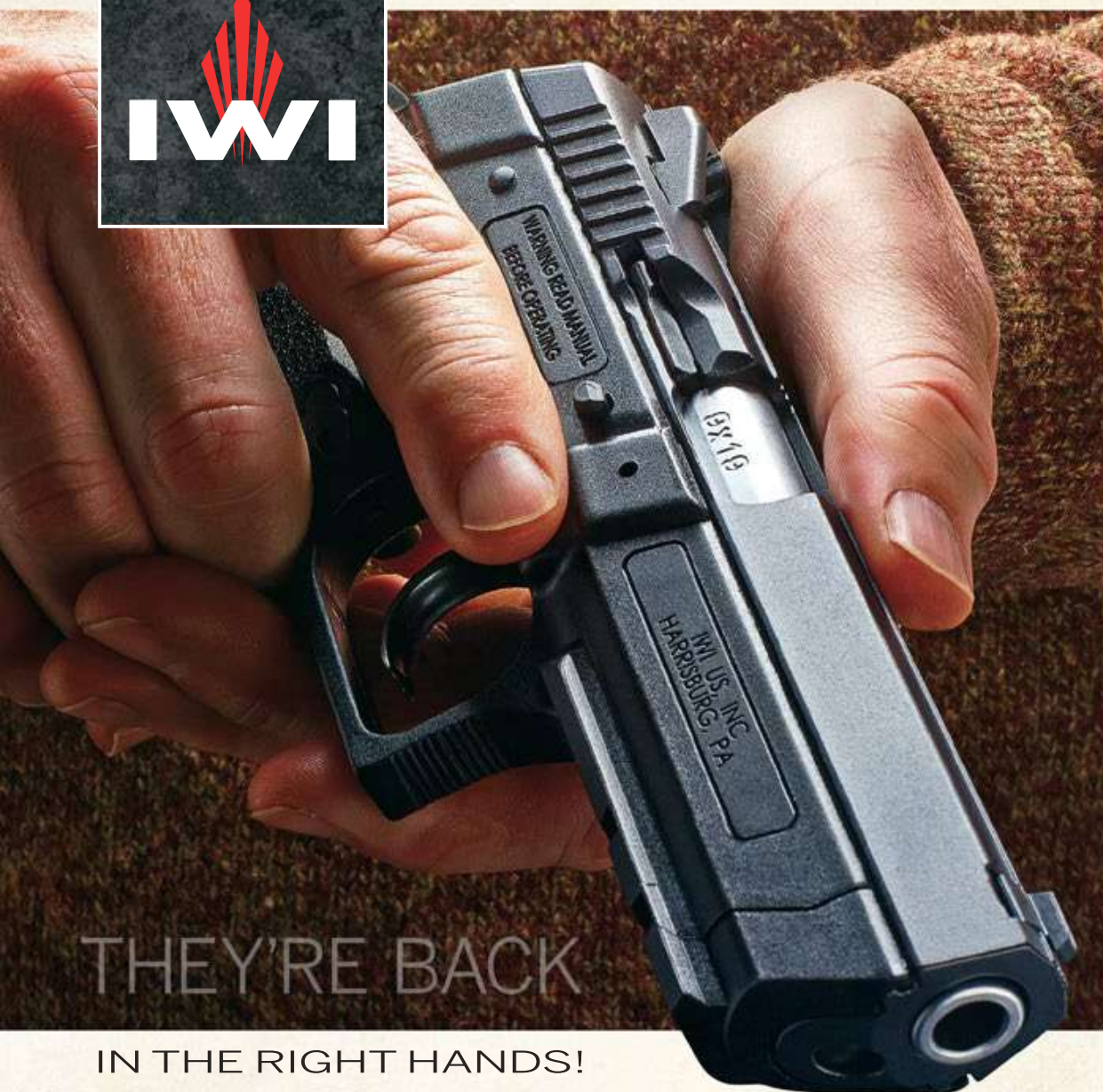
Both Roscoes are equipped with Midwest Industries' angle-slot flash hider. It is very effective.

The barrel nut sleeve shows the anchor points and stiffening support for the handguard rail.

too short, and keeping the guns running was a never-ending task. I am reminded of that every time we see one of them in a class and the officer who is shooting it ends up using a borrowed rifle while we fix his rifle's broken, bent or misaligned parts. Yes, 10½ inches on a 5.56 is as short as you want to go and still have a useful ballistic stick to hit bad things with.

In the .300 Blackout, the limited case capacity means you don't get a lot of benefit once you go past 10 inches, and with some loads you can even find yourself losing velocity when you get to the 16-inch length. Gas runs out of pressure, but friction never sleeps. Especially with the subsonic loads, you can actually be faster at 9½ inches than at 16.

We tend to think of AR pistols and the SBRs that inspired them as pure CQB tools, handgun-distance problem solvers, and this leads a lot of shooters to spend their time blasting away at targets not much more than 25 yards distant. Oh, a quick reminder: If your range has steel targets and you are on the handgun range, do not shoot the steel you find there. Yes, these are pistols, but when it comes to smacking



## JERICHIO

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.223 REM. PERFORMANCE

| LOAD                                | VELOCITY (FPS) | ES | SD | AVERAGE GROUP (IN.) |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----|----|---------------------|
| Federal Nosler 55-gr. Ballistic Tip | 2,735          | 49 | 28 | 1.5                 |
| Winchester 55-gr. FMJ               | 2,574          | 53 | 32 | 1.5                 |
| Winchester 60-gr. PDX-1             | 2,421          | 40 | 19 | 1.2                 |
| HPR 62-gr. OTM                      | 2,419          | 11 | 7  | 1.0                 |
| ASYM 77-gr. OTM                     | 2,301          | 39 | 18 | 1.0                 |
| CORE Sierra 77-gr. HPBT             | 2,224          | 75 | 31 | 1.5                 |



It's hard to fault accuracy such as this. These Roscoes can shoot.

steel, they are more than that. All the 5.56 loads, except for frangibles, and all the supersonic loads in .300 Blackout will punch a hole through, or at least crater, any steel you shoot at 25 yards. This is dangerous and destructive. The least you can expect is to pay to repair or replace the steel. If you catch a fragment bouncing back, it can have enough energy to do more than just "leave a mark."

The subsonics are the equivalent of a .45 ACP +P, and if the

.300 BLK PERFORMANCE

| LOAD                          | VELOCITY (FPS) | ES | SD | AVERAGE GROUP (IN.) |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----|----|---------------------|
| Hornady 110-gr. V-MAX         | 2,242          | 9  | 7  | 1.5                 |
| SIG Sauer 125-gr. Sierra MK   | 2,026          | 16 | 19 | 1.7                 |
| CORE Hornady 155-gr. A-MAX    | 1,751          | 41 | 17 | 3.3                 |
| Gemtech 187-gr. Ballistic Tip | 984            | 41 | 30 | 1.5                 |
| Beck Lehigh 194-gr.           | 918            | 38 | 15 | 1.7                 |
| Hornady 208-gr. A-MAX         | 913            | 28 | 42 | 1.2                 |
| Black Hills 220-gr. OTM       | 920            | 29 | 10 | 1.2                 |
| Remington 220-gr. OTM         | 936            | 41 | 23 | 2.0                 |
| SIG Sauer 220-gr. BTHP        | 970            | 32 | 23 | 1.5                 |

Notes: Accuracy results are averages of five five-shot groups at 100 yards off a Sinclair front shooting rest and rear bag. Velocities are averages of 10 shots measured on a Labrador chronograph set to record 15 feet from the muzzle.

club or range plates and poppers can take that, they can take a hit from subsonic .300 Blackout loads.

With that in mind, I did drills on paper on the handgun ranges, but for accuracy testing and steel shooting, I went to the club's 100-yard range. Shooting the gongs was made interesting only when I tried to go at speed. If I took my time, there was really no way to miss the gongs a football field away. Accuracy testing with the Leupold was more a matter of getting comfortable on the shooting bench with the ERGO Swift Grip than worrying about performance. The triggers made the work not work, and the results were pleasing.

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The takeaway from this entertaining few days at the range is this: CORE15 has produced an interesting AR pistol. It is accurate and reliable. It comes in two calibers, so you have your choice of which would be more useful in the situation you are anticipating. Those of you who have suppressors can park one on either, as they would have no problems dealing with a moderator. If you live in a state where your concealed-carry permit is an actual pistol license, well, these are pistols. Now you've got a truck gun you can feel good about.

Oh, and Roscoe? Haven't you ever seen a gangster movie from the 1930s or 1940s? I guess I'm showing my age, then, but if I can depend on Roscoes such as these, who cares? 

## CORE ORDNANCE

One could say that the guys at CORE Rifle Systems have control issues. After CORE started manufacturing its own receivers, it turned to making barrels. Now it is making ammo to ensure that customers have what they need to get the most precision out of its products.

CORE refers to its loads as “small-batch boutique-grade” ammunition. You don't need to pull a bullet to see that CORE is using high-quality components — but we did.

Inside the .300 Blackout's once-fired Lake City 5.56 brass and the .223's new manufactured brass, we found a charge of Hodgdon H110 powder — good stuff.

For this evaluation, we received a few 20-round boxes of .300 BLK ammo loaded with Hornady A-MAX bullets and .223 ammo topped with Sierra's archetype, the Sierra MatchKing.

Of course, CORE Ordnance offers several different bullets and grain weights for both calibers including Hornady's 55-grain V-MAX and Lehigh Defense's 45-grain Controlled Chaos for .223. Price per box starts at \$23. The .300 BLK is offered with several options in both sub- and supersonic loads starting at \$34.



# OWN THE NIGHT



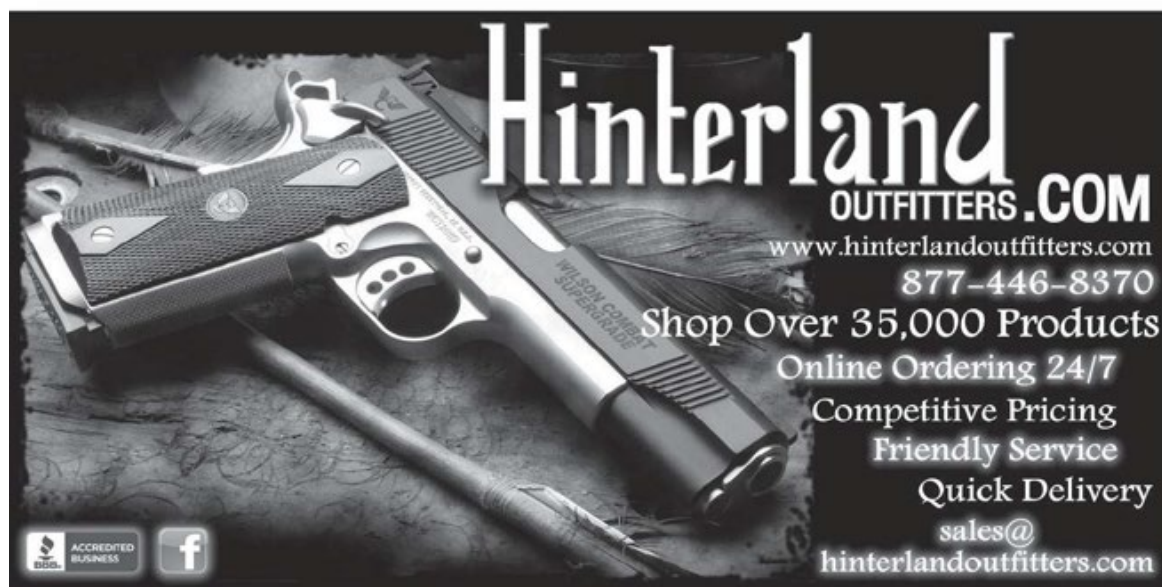
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# STREET PISTOL

Finally. The first civilian-legal version of the CZ 805 Bren is making its way to the U.S.

WORDS BY ERIC R. POOLE | PHOTOS BY SEAN UTLEY

**THE NEW CZ-USA BREN 805 PS1** is a handgun well suited for defending American communities against terrorism within our borders. Having worn a military uniform, I have a combat mindset that remained focused on preparing for worst-case scenarios, the kind we're starting to see appear with greater frequency in the headlines of the national news. To survive combat in Iraq, members of my unit relied on teamwork, maneuvers and the effective delivery of dominating firepower to overwhelm our enemy. As a citizen soldier, I train to evolve my tactics and still look for an advantage in the guns my family may have to depend on. Though I'm rarely without a pistol, I try and adhere to the old adage "A pistol is to help fight your way to a rifle."

Obviously, a pistol does have its advantages. The size of its cartridges affords for a small package that's more practical to conceal and carry than a rifle, making it faster to deploy also. However, in most cases a rifle delivers more energy on target with the option of greater precision at distances and capacity. If you've never taken fire from someone intent on killing you, I can tell you that you don't want to be dealing with the hiccup of a reload during a firefight. What's faster, reloading or continuing to pull the trigger? Therefore, a pistol that could simulate most of the benefits of a short-barreled rifle without the need for ATF paperwork and a tax stamp makes a lot of sense in this age marked by the constant threat of mainstream terrorism and public ambushes. Though they've been around, AR pistols offer a bridge between a pistol and a carbine, especially when paired with recent developments in diversion bags and AR-pistol stabilizing braces.



A trunk gun such as the pistol variant of the CZ 805 Bren should offer twice the capacity of a sidearm, thanks to standard 30-round magazines. If an armed confrontation gets to the point of you needing to reload, find cover behind solid objects such as the axle and wheel versus thin-skin door panels.

Design principles dictate that the next generation of tactical firearms be lightweight, accurate, reliable (often by way of a regulated gas piston push rod), ambidextrous and modular. A few years ago, CZ-UB stepped up once again and met those principles in accordance with NATO standards with its 805 Bren, which certainly falls within this definition along with other 3rd Gen battle rifles such as the Beretta ARX and FN SCAR.

A collaborative effort between the armed forces of the Czech Republic and CZ-UB resulted in the 805 Bren to replace the

Sa vz.58 as the nation's standard-issue service rifle. In 2010, it competed against the FN SCAR and won its place as the country's standard-issue service rifle through Czech army trials.

In 2012, I visited CZ's historic factory in Uhersky Brod, learned the developmental history of the Bren platform, inspected the various prototypes and evaluated the final product firsthand after observing every stage of its manufacturing and NATO certification. I've wanted one for myself every since.

**The Hurdles** Getting one to the U.S. has been a more challenging proposition due to importation guidelines and U.S.-made part-count compliance. The solution was for CZ-USA to offer it as a pistol, the 805 Bren PS1 tested here.

"Figuring out a way that the ATF was satisfied that [the PS1] couldn't be easily converted to full-auto was the challenge," Jason Morton, vice president of marketing for CZ-USA, says.

CZ answered with a bolt-carrier group that couldn't be made to work, full auto and a fire-control group that couldn't be retrofitted to accept the 805 Bren A1/A2's select-fire-capable trigger



**CZ 805 Bren PS1**

Type: Locked breech, rotating bolt, adjustable gas piston operated, semiautomatic

Caliber: 5.56 NATO

Capacity: 30 rds.

Barrel: 11 in., hammer forged, 1:7-in. twist

Overall Length: 22.75 in.

Height: 10.24 in.

Width: 4.41 in.

Weight: 6.7 lbs.

Finish: Anodized (aluminum), black polymer (lower receiver)

Sights: Adj. flip-up aperture (rear), adj. post (front)

Stock: None; AR pistol buffer tube adapter

Msrp: \$1,982

Manufacturer: CZ-USA, 800-955-4486  
cz-usa.com





unit. Morton indicates that parts to Form 1 the 805 Bren PS1 into a Short Barreled Rifle, or SBR, and perhaps other state-compliance parts will start becoming available to us later this year.

**The Details** The CZ 805 Bren A1 and A2 carbines and PS1 pistol represent the latest advancements in design technology and manufacturing processes. The 805 Bren is manufactured and assembled using components created from a selection of quality steels, aluminum alloys and plastics. It uses a proven two-stage, gas-piston-operated, locked-breech design with a rotating bolt within a monolithic aluminum upper receiver and forend design. In case of unusual amounts of fouling, we can optimize the Bren's function by adjusting its two-position gas regulator from a normal-use setting to one that's intended for the dirtiest extremes.

The ambidextrous theme continues to the forward-mounted charging handle in that it can be easily changed to function on either side of the rifle, but you must fieldstrip it to do so. The protruding charging handle with round knob does reciprocate during operation, so consider where on the forend you place your support hand. That said, unlike a few other reciprocating charging-handle systems, the one on the PS1 is a very short stroke. I measured that the bolt handle only travels 4 inches and is 2½-inches (at its forward position) from where most of us are going to grip the forward quad rail. If this is a concern, it's also good to know that switching the bolt handle to the opposite side of your support

With its 11½-inch barrel, the PS1 has a lot working for it in a tight package. The muzzle device not only functions as a flash hider and muzzlebrake, it pushes the muzzle down with, four ports on top acting as a muzzle-rise compensator. Behind it is the gas block with a two-position regulator and bayonet lug underneath. The barrel is guarded by the upper's monolithic forend rail. It carries CZ's adjustable post/flip-aperture sight setup, which we first saw on the company's new EVO 3 S1 Scorpion.

hand will eliminate the risk of unintentionally harming your thumb or fingers.

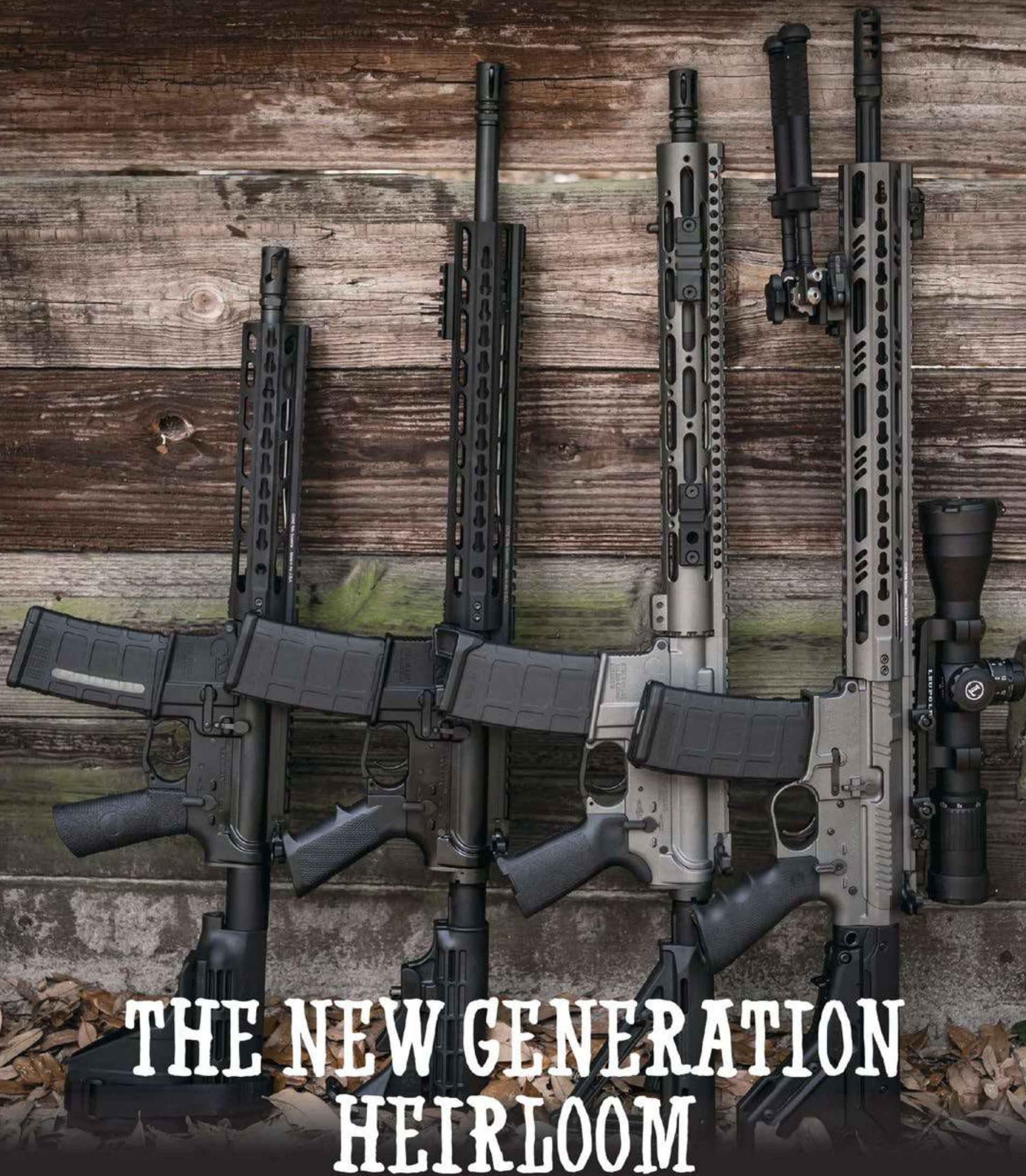
A MIL-STD 1913 Picatinny rail extends generously along the entire length of the upper receiver for mounting any combination of optics and night vision. Rails are also mounted at the 3, 6 and 9 o'clock positions on the forend. Out of the box, the 805 Bren comes equipped with a fully adjustable front post/rear aperture setup designed for engaging targets out to 500 meters, the same ones we saw on the recently introduced EVO 3 S1 Scorpion 9mm pistol. The only downside is that low-mount optics may not clear the 1-inch-tall sights. They will, however, cowitness with the majority of red dot sight setups.

Inside the handguard resides CZ's famed hammer-forged barrels. The PS1's 11-inch barrel is threaded to accommodate the use of a muzzle device and suppressor. The standard part is a two-prong, multi-ported muzzlebrake and muzzle-rise compensator that makes this pistol extremely recoverable during rapid fire and reduces felt recoil and flash substantially over previous

muzzle devices I've tested on this platform.

The standard chambering is 5.56 NATO, but unique to this pistol is that it *could* be multicaliber ready. This Bren platform takes modularity to the max. The magazine housing is a detachable component that can be replaced in the field as part of a caliber change. To accommodate a caliber change, the Bren features a quick-change-barrel system, an interchangeable breechblock





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Disassembly starts by ensuring the bolt is forward (1). Remove the rear takedown pin (2), and press the button on top of the adapter plate while pushing it down (3). Retract the bolt handle to draw out the guide-rod/spring assembly and bolt-carrier group (4).

and gas tube needed for alternate calibers or barrel-length changes. These optional barrel lengths include the PS1's short 11-inch pistol barrel (as seen on Europe's 805 Bren A2), a 14-inch standard (805 Bren A1) and a long marksman barrel. Only the 11-inch PS1 barrel and 14-inch A1 barrel were available to Guns & Ammo for testing. We've also been told that a 7.62x39mm could be manufactured at CZ-UB if there is enough demand.

The lower receiver is made of a rigid polymer and not only contains the fire-control system, it accepts different magazine wells. The select-fire 805 Bren A1 was offered with proprietary 5.56 NATO 30-round magazines manufactured using translucent polymer so soldiers

could quickly identify ammunition levels. However, the Bren is also available with a magazine housing that is compatible with STANAG magazines used by allied forces, and this is the configuration delivered with U.S.-bound PS1 models.

"One of the requirements CZ-USA asked of CZ-UB was to configure the PS1 to accept STANAG magazines," Morton says. "The development of the magazine housing for NATO mags was parallel to the platform's development, so it wasn't difficult."

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The lower receiver is a two-piece polymer-composite design. The material helps the pistol remain light for portability and handling. Inside, those fluent in ARs will notice that the Bren trigger is not based off an AR-15/M4. However, trigger pulls are really clean and fast to manipulate. G&A's sample averaged 4 pounds, 12 ounces.

Unlike the four-position select-fire trigger unit G&A staff tested a few years ago, the PS1 will only feature a single, red dot pictogram representing one shot for each pull of the trigger. Flip up the selector lever with your thumb, and the dial turns to point down at a white-colored-dot safe position. Situated above the firing grip, the selector lever is just one of the many ambidextrous or convertible features on the 805 Bren.

"The PS1 is pretty much identical to the [Bren 805] A2," says Morton. "The engineering challenges were inside the receiver and underneath the top Pic rail. We had to machine a round plug that protrudes a quarter-inch to prevent a full-auto bolt carrier from being inserted. The other change is with the pistol-grip area that houses the trigger so a select-fire trigger assembly could not be inserted."

**It's Not-A-Stock** The PS1 comes standard with a backplate featur-



Like most piston guns, the PS1 runs clean in the receiver. To maintain the gas system, rotate (1) and remove (2) the gas regulator. The push-rod and spring assembly (3-4) can then be removed for an easy wipedown.



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ing a pair of traditional sling attachment points and rear socket cups. An optional buffer-tube adapter backplate with a KAK Industries pistol buffer tube will be made available as an accessory. If you want a different tube, save yourself some money and purchase one without the buffer and spring. The PS1 doesn't need it. In evaluating the PS1, our favorite tube for this gun was one from Midwest Industries for its longer length and flush fitment with the SB15 brace.

### BREN: WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Often associated with a 1930s-era light machine gun used by Britain, the Bren Gun was a modified variant of the Czech-designed ZB vz.26 LMG. Hence, the name "BREN" is an acronym for Brno and Enfield. Brno is a city in the Czech Republic where the ZB vz.26 was designed, and Enfield is the site of the British Royal Small Arms Factory (RSAF).

this evaluation, we did manage to obtain a buffer-tube adapter intended for use with the aforementioned SIG SB15 pistol arm brace. When used as intended, this brace makes shooting the PS1 from a strapped-in arm brace or even the "chin-dex" position

more effective than free-handing the pistol. Though I believe that shouldering these stocks does not reclassify the PS1 (or any AR-like pistol), doing so, particularly in public view, could draw unwanted attention that may subject you to becoming a court case used to redefine and eliminate the sale and use of these not-a-stocks.

**Range Time** Thanks to its sophisticated design, the CZ 805 Bren A2 carbine excelled in high service life and reliability testing and has already proven capable in support of combat operations with ISAF in Afghanistan. I consider that my extensive experience testing 6,000 rounds through 11-inch-barreled 805 Bren carbines has adequately proven the system's reliability. These guns don't seem to ever jam.

I recently completed testing of the forthcoming 805 Bren PS1 pistol variant. Besides the stock, not much is different between the earlier SBR carbine. If you pause and analyze the data in the accompanying performance chart, it might seem that the

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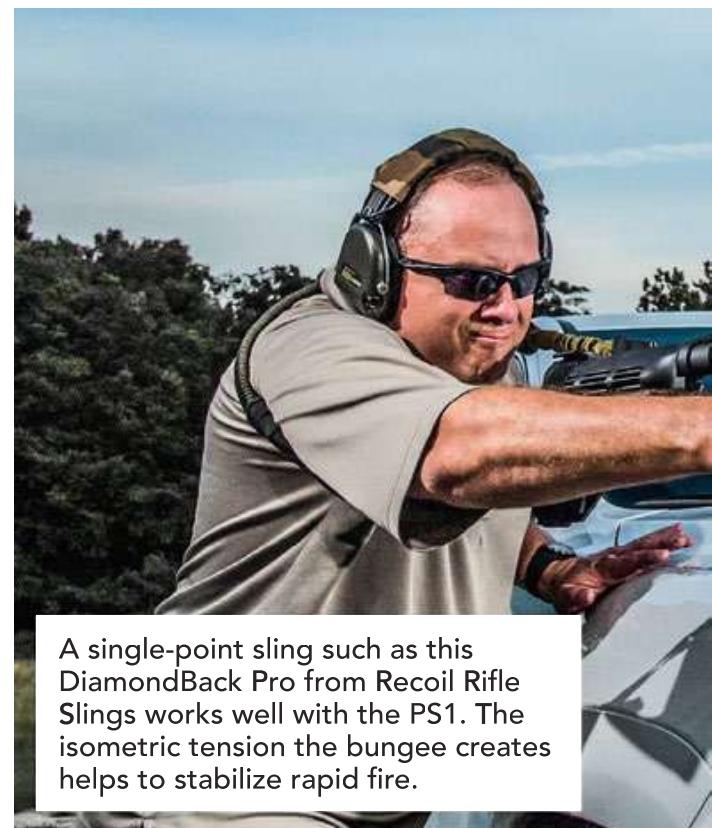


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PERFORMANCE

| LOAD                               | VELOCITY (FPS) | ES  | SD | AVG. GROUP (IN.) | BEST GROUP (IN.) |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-----|----|------------------|------------------|
| Federal 55-gr. XM193 FMJ           | 2,463          | 45  | 18 | 3.76             | 2.53             |
| Black Hills 5.56 62-gr. Barnes TSX | 2,600          | 115 | 46 | 2.29             | 1.48             |
| Hornady Match 75-gr. BTHP          | 2,264          | 35  | 16 | 2.27             | 1.44             |
| HPR .223 75-gr. Match BTHP         | 2,085          | 62  | 23 | 1.89             | 1.24             |

PS1 clearly prefers projectiles weighing more than 55 grains in terms of printing groups at 100 yards. However, I'm looking back at that range day and regretting the inclusion of Federal's XM193 55-grain FMJ. This military-reject ammunition is offered for as recreational practice ammo, and it doesn't surprise us that this particular load printed significantly larger groups. Further testing needs to evaluate better 55-grain ammo. I suspect that the 1:7-inch twist rate will shoot everything between 55 grains and 75 grains repeatedly accurate.

During this evaluation, I and another shooter printed a 1½-inch group from a rest at a 100-yard bench using HPR 75-grain Match ammo; this was good stuff and very clean brass. The best group from this lot measured just under an inch and a quarter. That should say a lot for an 11-inch pistol without a stock. (We did utilize a Leupold Mark 6 3-18x44mm optic on it to extract the best accuracy potential.)

**Incoming** The PS1 model has passed the ATF's requirements for its "sporting purposes test." While visiting the CZ factory store in Prague, I had observed a semiauto variant, which explains how CZ was able to deliver the PS1 to the U.S. market so quickly. This result comes highly recommended from me, and given the current trends toward SBR-type firearms and pistol braces, CZ's timing is impeccable.

"What does someone need one of

those for?" That question recently asked of me has been asked of all black rifle fans at one time or another. Need? Where does the Second Amendment suggest that our right to bear arms has anything to do with need as

a justification to own a particular type of firearm? For me, the highly anticipated 805 Bren PS1 has nothing to do with *need* and everything to do with *want*. **GA**



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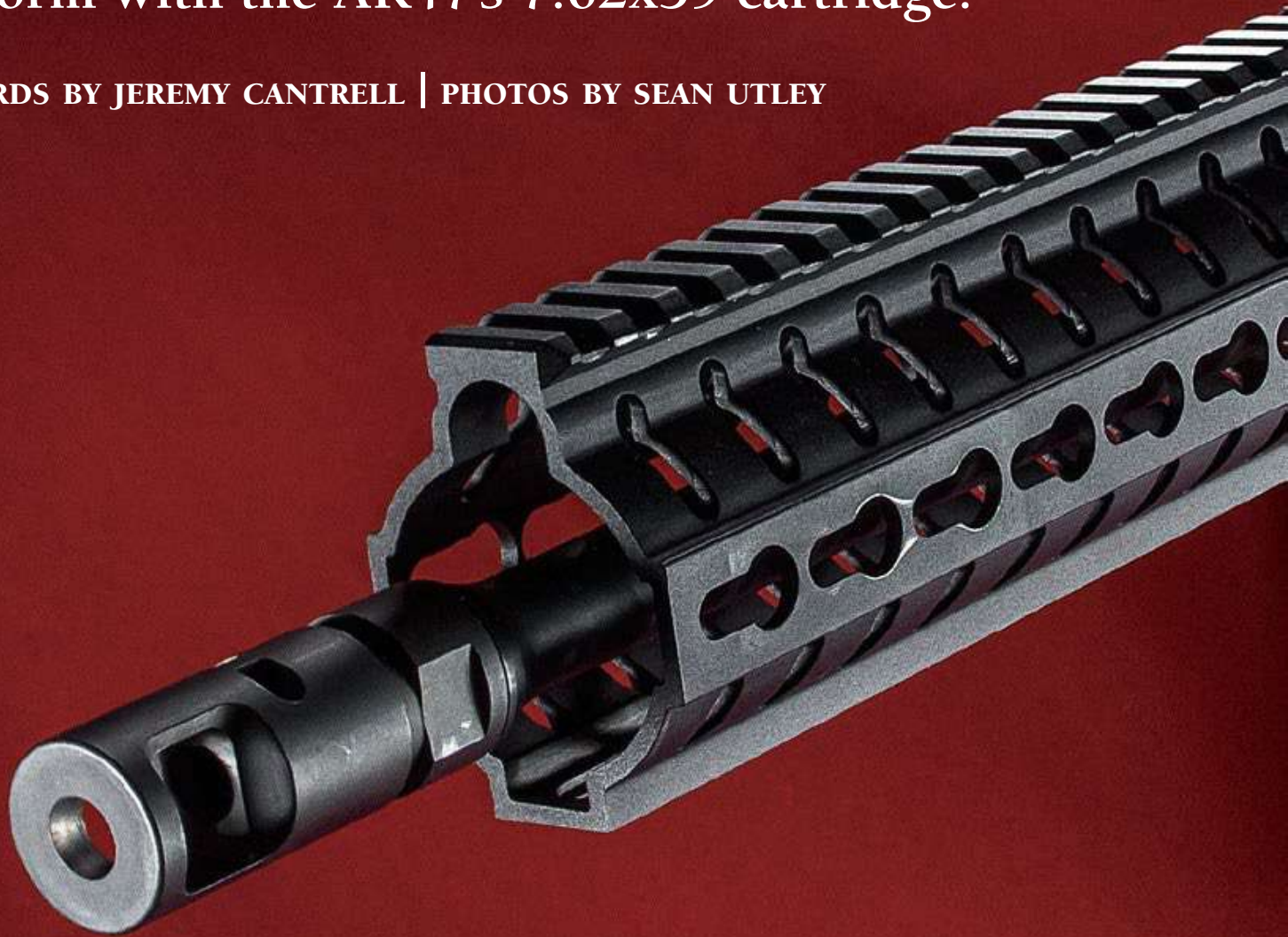
MaxVision Beam™ provides crucial  
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# CMMG Mutant

It's the monster you get when combining the ergonomics and modularity of the M4 platform with the AK47's 7.62x39 cartridge.

WORDS BY JEREMY CANTRELL | PHOTOS BY SEAN UTLEY











**YANKEES VERSUS RED SOX.** Ford versus Chevy. Coke versus Pepsi. These are examples of storied rivalries between cultural icons. None of them generate the same level of passionate discourse between their respective fan bases as Eugene Stoner's AR-15 rifle versus Mikhail Kalashnikov's AK47. To greatly oversimplify the argument, Stoner's disciples often credit his rifle platform with being ergonomically superior with more mission-specific flexibility than the AK, while the Kalashnikov crowd touts the ballistic performance of the .30-caliber (7.62x39) cartridge as superior to the most common chambering of the AR platform (5.56 NATO).





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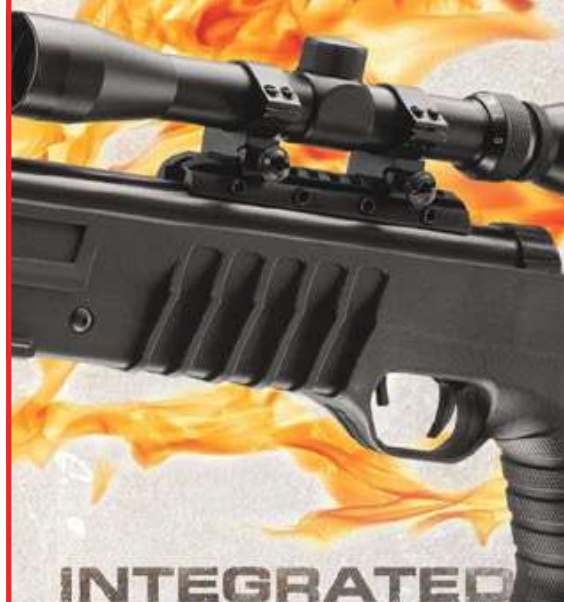
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In December 2014, Central Missouri Machine Guns (CMMG) added another chapter to the Stoner versus Kalashnikov saga by introducing the Mk47 Mutant line of rifles, combining the ergonomics and modularity of the AR-15 platform with the 7.62x39 cartridge. The idea to fuse the AR platform with the 7.62x39 cartridge isn't new, predating the Mk47 to the early days of the Global War on Terror, when the U.S. Army Special Operations Command pursued a modular multicaliber platform with the M4's characteristics capable of firing either 5.56 NATO or 7.62x39 cartridges from indigenous AK47 magazines. It was after a field-expedient barrel and bolt change. The Special Purpose Rifle-Variant (SPR-V) program was eventually canceled, but commercial interest in a 7.62x39 AR platform did not dissipate with it.

I'm to be included in the demographic of potential buyers for a .30-caliber AR platform, and yes, I've watched the .300 Blackout rifles with some interest. I think it's reasonable to state that the 7.62x39 and .300 Blackout (7.62x35) cartridges are at least in the same stratosphere if the metric is ballistic performance. If the metric is cartridge availability or expense, they can't be further apart. That being said, I understand the appeal of the .300 Blackout carbines, but my willingness to accept a new cartridge can most accurately be described as moving at glacier-like speed. In another decade or so, maybe I can join the ranks of the .300 Blackout crowd, once I'm sure it's not the Zune portable media player of the Microsoft versus Apple rivalry. That 7.62x39 cartridge, it's looking like it could have some longevity.

With that as the backdrop, I received the CMMG Mk47 AKM

The Mutant's modified bolt-carrier group is based on CMMG's brawnier .308-chambered Mk3 platform. Hogging out the face of a .223 Rem./5.56 NATO bolt just didn't provide the level of support CMMG wanted.





Our test sample was furnished with the optional Magpul furniture, including an MOE pistol grip, and Magpul's extremely popular CTR stock. Combined with CMMG's own 15-inch KeyMod forend, handling is exceptional.

Mutant for evaluation. The Mk47 AKM is the midlevel rifle of the Mutant line, having a single-stage Mil-Spec trigger as opposed to the Geissele Super Semi-Automatic (SSA) two-stage trigger that is standard on the top-end Mk47 AKM2. It comes equipped with Magpul furniture and a .30-caliber SV muzzlebrake, which are not standard on the entry-level Mk47 T. Note: The thread pitch for that muzzlebrake is the standard .30-caliber 5/8x24, so the world is the Mutant owner's oyster where muzzle devices are concerned — not as much for the AK owner. Point awarded to the Stoner-based rifle platform.

Aside from the aforementioned optional variances, the Mutant rifles share the same heart, a brawny modified bolt and bolt-carrier group based on CMMG's .308 Mk3 platform. CMMG's intent was to "overbuild" the Mutant's bolt as opposed to altering a more diminutive 5.56 NATO bolt as the starting point for its 7.62x39 rifle. Although Kalashnikov's gas-piston rifle catapulted 7.62x39-chambered rifles into bunny-like proliferation to the four corners of the planet, CMMG gave the nod to Stoner's design and used a carbine-length, direct-impingement gas system.

This Mk47 AKM was furnished with a Magpul MOE pistol grip, and to the rear of the receiver, a Magpul CTR buttstock

#### CMMG Mutant Mk47 AKM

**Type:** Direct impingement, rotating bolt, locked breech

**Caliber:** 7.62x39mm

**Capacity:** 30 rds.

**Barrel:** 16.1 in., 1:10-in. twist, SBN treated

**Overall Length:** 33½ in. (stock collapsed)

**Weight:** 7.2 lbs.

**Stock:** Six position, adjustable

**Finish:** Anodized (aluminum), Nitride (steel)

**Trigger:** Single stage, 5¾ lbs. (tested)

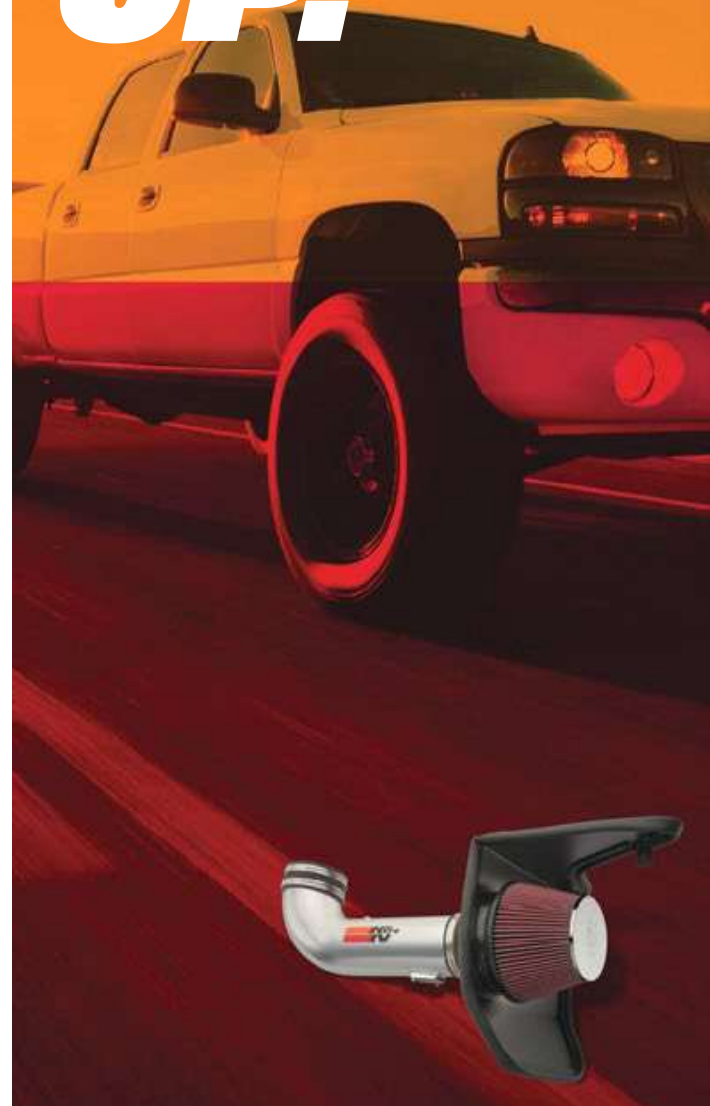
**Sights:** None

**Safety:** Two position

**MSRP:** \$1,650

**Manufacturer:** CMMG  
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resides on a six-position, Mil-Spec-diameter buffer tube. Forward of the receiver is a 16.1-inch, 1:10-inch-twist, 4140 nitride-treated barrel that is free floated; 15 inches of rifle-length KeyMod handguard; and a MIL-STD Picatinny top rail. Dimensionally, the Mk47 AKM has a total length of 33½ inches (stock collapsed), and it weighs a manageable 7.2 pounds unloaded.

The Mk47's upper and lower receivers are milled from 7075-T6 billet aluminum. The lower receiver incorporates AR-type fire controls, with a nonambidextrous safety selector and a military-like single-stage trigger. The trigger is, well, a basic trigger. My test rifle's trigger break averaged 5¾ pounds on an RCBS trigger-pull gauge, which should be considered an improvement over the AK platform to all but the fringe demographic who actually prefer the AK trigger. Nevertheless, it won't leave you wondering why the Geissele SSA trigger is offered on the Mk47 AKM2.

The magazine well of the Mk47's lower receiver employs Kalashnikov's hook-and-latch design for the employment of AK magazines. The benefit of using AK magazines on the Mutant platform is twofold. First, there's an abundance of those magazines available. Second, Kalashnikov's magazines are generally accepted as the most reliable means to feed the 7.62x39 cartridge into a rifle chambered to consume it. There have been, and still are, 7.62x39 AR platforms that utilize AR-style magazines, with mixed results. CMMG professes an intent to deliver AK reliability



Like the AK47, the Mutant utilizes a Kalashnikov-style hook-and-latch design so that it functions with AK magazines. A variety of AK mags were used in the evaluation including (above, left to right): Magpul PMAG, Tapco, Bulgarian waffle pattern, steel and a Russian Bakelite (seated in the magazine well).



A man with a beard and a grey beanie is looking upwards, holding a Franchi Affinity shotgun. He is wearing camouflage gear and yellow gloves. A dog is sitting next to him, also looking upwards. In the background, there are ducks and a large flock of birds flying in a cloudy sky. A large white letter 'F' is in the top right corner.

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with its Mk47 rifles, so the decision to incorporate AK mags into the platform seems sound.

My test rifle came with two Magpul PMAG 30 AK/AKM MOE magazines, but CMMG states that any AK magazines can be utilized in the Mk47. I used a variety of 30-round magazines — PMAGs, Russian Bakelites, Bulgarian waffles, Tapcos and steel magazines — and aside from one Tapco mag that wouldn't remain seated in the mag well when the Mutant was fired, the rifle didn't display any magazine bias.

The Mutant is equipped with a large ambidextrous magazine release/paddle located forward of the triggerguard, which works

very well, well enough for me to conclude that AK magazine changes with the Mk47 were an improved experience when compared with those with my Kalashnikov rifle.

The other side of the coin for feeding the Mutant with AK magazines is that in a very Kalashnikov-ish fashion, the Mutant's bolt does not lock back on an empty magazine, nor does the rifle possess a bolt catch/release to manually lock the bolt to the rear. Also absent is a forward assist. I didn't really miss the latter, but I did miss the former. This AK characteristic can result in an untimely surprise and an unscheduled test of your trigger control and fundamentals if you "straight press to the rear, click" on an

empty chamber. In addition, it requires an exclusive relationship with the AR-style charging handle to keep the rifle stoked on all nontactical (empty magazine) reloads.

The increased level of intimacy with the charging handle will no doubt make you aware of the stiffer buffer spring that the Mk47's brawny bolt-carrier group (BCG) requires, particularly if a reload is executed from your "workspace" (butt-stock tucked/muzzle up). This scenario could benefit from the improved mechanical advantage provided by the increased purchase of an ambidextrous charging handle. The Mutant's charging handle is a proprietary component built to spec for its modified BCG, and there were no commercially available ambidextrous options at the time I evaluated the rifle, so the theory remained untested. No doubt some will point out that these characteristics didn't prohibit the Kalashnikov from realizing its status as a formidable battle ax. Having carried an AK-mounted bang switch for self-preservation in nonpermissive environments, I'd concur. However, I'd also categorize Kalashnikov's charging handle as being in a position of greater mechanical advantage when compared with Stoner's if it's going to be your sole source for bolt manipulation.

However, none of this is the crux of the issue. The fact that CMMG stated its intent to build a rifle that rivals the reliability of an AK's strongly implies that the Mutant will function outside of a "white glove" environment, so, aside from ensuring adequate lubrication and cleaning the bore, I evaluated the Mk47 as such. My test was not long term, but aside from the aforementioned no-go magazine, no malfunctions were encountered and reliability was delivered as pledged.

If the number of non-AK 7.62x39 rifle platforms on the horizon is any indication, the spirit of the SPR-V project is

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alive and well in the commercial marketplace, and CMMG's Mk47 Mutant rifles are sure to be players in that field.


Will the Mutant put the AR versus AK rivalry to rest? It's unlikely. Dyed-in-the-wool Kalashnikov and Stoner advocates aren't likely to cede their biases, and the heritage of the Kalashnikov rifle has earned it the right to be the standard bearer for the 7.62x39 cartridge; unseating it would be monumental. But, if a robust rifle platform that can benefit from the economy of scale of abundant 7.62x39 ammunition with the ergonomics and modularity of a free-floated AR platform interests you, CMMG's Mk47 Mutant rifles are worthy of your consideration. A little competition's a good thing for a storied



rivalry; Kyle Busch is on the same track with DE2's Chevy and Joey Logano's Ford in a 200-mph Camry.

The Mutant isn't shipped with sights. I equipped the test rifle with a set of Magpul MBUS PRO offset sights in order to benefit from the extended

sight radius available with the rifle-length, free-floated KeyMod handguard. I utilized two optics for the evaluation: an EOTech 558 equipped with the visible/IR laser battery cap in conjunction with a G33

magnifier and a Hi-Lux Optics CMR762AK 1-4x24 (with a reticle designed for 7.62x39 ballistics) mounted in a LaRue Tactical LT104-30mm SPR M4 quick-detach mount. A Leupold Mark AR MOD 1 3-9x40mm was used for accuracy testing. 

#### PERFORMANCE

| LOAD                           | VELOCITY (FPS) | ES  | SD | BEST GROUP (IN.) |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-----|----|------------------|
| Winchester PDX1 120-gr. HP     | 2,318          | 83  | 35 | 1.45             |
| TulAmmo 122-gr. FMJ            | 2,456          | 101 | 48 | 1.8              |
| Winchester 123-gr. Power Point | 2,347          | 92  | 39 | 1.25             |



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# TRIJICON MRO

(MINIATURE RIFLE OPTIC)

**Words by Eric R. Poole | Photos by Michael Anschuetz**

**EVERYONE'S FIRST QUESTION** after seeing Trijicon's new MRO for the first time will likely be, "Is it better than an Aimpoint Micro?" As you'll see, there are differences even though the MRO does have a similar footprint. We'll get back to that.

MRO stands for "Miniature Rifle Optic." Like the Trijicon ACOG that has served our military for so many years, the MRO has the same ruggedness and feel about it. It is a fully sealed reflex sight engineered for use on rifles, carbines and shotguns of any caliber or gauge. Its electronics are secured in an aluminum housing as if they were in a vault.

Peer through the glass, and a crisp 2-MOA red dot is projected onto the objective lens, which can be adjusted in half-MOA increments for a total of 70 MOA in adjustment in both elevation and windage directions.

The MRO is noticeably short in overall length and actually slightly shorter than the new Aimpoint Micro T-2. Comparing the two top-shelf red dot sights next to each other, it's quick to see that the major difference is the MRO's larger objective lens. The design provides increased situational awareness and speeds up target acquisition due to an increased field of view, thereby smoothing the engagement process. When firing from unusual or

unstable shooting positions, the benefits of a larger objective lens become self-evident.

A turret on top of the MRO serves as the housing for its CR2032 battery cell and works as an adjustment dial between eight illumination settings, six of those providing a visible red dot. Two, marked "N" and "n," are there to work with night vision devices. Simple dots on coarse knurling mark the two Off positions, one preceding the night vision settings and the second between the "2" and "3" intensity settings. In evaluating two preproduction samples of this optic, I agreed with Trijicon's choice in location of this knob. It makes a lot of sense, since "2" will likely be too dark for most people under daylight engagements, while three is going to be the most frequent dot size initially used. In lower light, the "1" and "2" settings will increase precision (especially on small targets), whereas the brightness level of the dot at the highest "6" position may obscure the target or its details. Positions "4," "5" and "6" will be the dots of choice in the brightest daylight conditions, and shooters who have aging eyes will find aid in how easy the brightest red dot settings are to see.

And we don't have to look through the MRO's short tube. For shooters who have trouble focusing their eyesight on a reticle (as



TRIJICON  
MRO \$599

AIMPOINT  
MICRO T-2 \$839

This side-to-side comparison of the Aimpoint Micro T-2 (far right) and the Trijicon MRO (near right) reveals a similar footprint. A big difference is that the illumination adjustment knob on the MRO is on top and out of the shooter's linear field of view.

with some optics), simply keep both eyes open, visually acquire the red dot and just look at the target. If your eyes can stay on target, the red dot will simply overlay with the sight picture regardless of your head position. Mounted on a firearm, the dot is fixed. Because it is a projected red dot and not a magnified optic, we don't have to worry about parallax affecting our shot placement. Another positive side effect is that we benefit from infinite eye relief, which means that this optic could be mounted farther out over a barrel (as with a scout rifle) or for use with magnifiers behind it.

Battery life is a serious concern for most people, and these days any electronic optic that doesn't measure the life of its battery in years rather than hours is doomed to fail when you need it most. Both the Trijicon MRO and the Aimpoint Micro T-2 are expected to run on the supplied lithium battery continuously for five years while set on their primary settings.

Though the Micro and the MRO are similar in several regards, the location of the brightness knob is obviously different. The thought behind the Trijicon MRO is that the illumination knob should be removed from the shooter's linear field of view and accessible for use with either hand. If a right-handed shooter is operating a Micro, that person must either break his firing grip to adjust the knob with his right hand or more awkwardly reach over with his left support hand to dial the best setting. With its midposition "off" setting and 180 degrees of travel, the MRO







LaRue mounts are available for both the MRO (above left) and Micro (above right) and will co-witness with BUIS.

The MRO's 25mm objective lens reduces "tube effect" and offers an increased field of view.



With the MRO no special tools are required to adjust its sub-flush windage and elevation screws, just the rim of a case.



Trijicon MROs are laser engraved with a serial number, QR code and a call-out to Bible verse Psalms 18:28.



Both the MRO and the Micro are powered by the same CR2032 cell battery in the optics' illumination adjustment turret. If both optics were left turned on, these sights should stay illuminated for up to five years.

provides the quicker adjustment from dot-to-dot versus having to dial up or down through 12 other brightness settings until finding the right one.

The MRO features another clever approach to its adjustments. The elevation and windage adjustment screws are sub-flush mounted to the body and lack the usual caps we find on other red dots. Those caps are easy to lose or misplace, and the MRO's approach still protects the adjustments from accidents due to rough handling and impacts. In my testing since May 2015, I have yet to see a situation where my zero has changed. Zeroing is very fast and can be achieved easily in the field with no more than the rim of a spent cartridge case; no special tools are required.

As mentioned before, the MRO has the appearance and rugged feel of the battle-proven ACOG. Reason being is that the MRO is constructed using the same forged 7075-T6 aluminum housing that's been hard anodized a matte black. Trijicon claims that forged 7075 aluminum is 80 percent stronger than extruded 6061 aluminum.

The MRO is shockproof, and its housing is entirely sealed. It is purged and filled with dry nitrogen, and its seals make it waterproof and fogproof, providing the same hard-use durability qualities we have learned to expect from Trijicon's military products.

| Trijicon MRO     |   |
|------------------|---|
| Power:           | 1X  |
| Objective:       | 25mm  |
| Tube Diameter:   | 21.26mm to 33.27mm                          |
| Illum. Settings: | 6 (visible), 2 (night vision)               |
| Battery:         | CR2032 (5 years on "3")                     |
| Reticle:         | Red dot, adj. intensity                     |
| Length:          | 2.6 in.                                     |
| Weight:          | 4.1 oz. (w/o mount), 6.08 oz. w/mount       |
| Eye Relief:      | Infinite                                    |
| MSRP:            | \$599 (w/o mount), \$649 (w/Trijicon mount) |
| Manufacturer:    | Trijicon, 800-338-0563 trijicon.com         |

The large objective lens measures 25mm, which provides up to a 44 percent-larger viewing area when compared with the Micro and its knock-offs. I have noticed that with the MRO, there is less of a "tube effect" that causes my brain to pause and force my eye to search for the target within other micro optics' small window. Bottom line: You're not searching for the dot. It's nice to level a gun, look past the sight and still see a red dot.

The MRO by itself weighs 4.1 ounces, and once you add a mount, that number increases to 6.08 ounces by my measurement. The four-screw mounting foot at its base accepts three optional mounts from Trijicon, including a low, mid- and full mount. The low mount works great on firearms including shotguns and scout rifles with high receivers or extended sight mounts. The midsize mount is an absolute cowitness mount that will place the red dot in the center of the window and on the tip of the front sight post seen with most popular backup-sight configurations. The tallest mount places the backup iron sights in the lower one-third of the optic's window.

Interestingly, LaRue Tactical has been codeveloping a single throw-lever mount for the MRO called the LT839. It weighs the same 6.08 ounces with the MRO as the factory Trijicon options. This mounting option is my personal favorite since I frequently



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G&A Editor Eric Poole evaluated a pair of pre-production samples on a recent aerial extermination hog hunt near Sonora, Texas. The MROs never stuttered in providing a brilliant aiming point during the fast-moving action accompanied by long periods of intense vibration and recoil.

use LaRue mounts with my optics.

I flew down to San Antonio, Texas, last May and drove west to a ranch near Sonora, Texas. There I met helicopter pilot Kyle Lange and his dad, Aubrey, who allowed me to accompany them on a two-day hog extermination hunt. I was permitted to bring any rifle and any optic, and I used this opportunity to evaluate the Trijicon MRO on an LWRCI SIX8 Razorback. When compared with Lange's own 5.56 ARs, the 6.8 noticeably pile drove pigs to the ground, and fewer rounds were wasted, thanks to the MRO's pinpoint precision. When you're chasing hogs in different directions from a hovering helicopter at 500 feet, rifles and optics are subject to airborne debris constantly kicked up, vibrations from the helicopter and recoil from the rifle. Lange has only seen a few combinations survive his line of work. I turned the optic on and kept it on. It has yet to flutter or turn off. The MRO is the real deal, not another me-too optic. Visually, its field of view is expansive and ideal for high-volume shooting situations like this was. Between me and another shooter, more than 130 destructive hogs were put down, to several ranchers' delight.

The Aimpoint Micro is the current standard by which most of us judge mini red dot sights. This is the reason G&A chose to compare Trijicon's new MRO with the latest Micro. Those who already use the Micro will wonder if the MRO can unseat it as the king of mini red dots. If all things are considered and Trijicon can stand toe-to-toe with Aimpoint in each of the feature categories, Aimpoint will face its first real challenger. For most, the decision will come down to price. Aimpoint and Trijicon are both highly respected optic manufacturers. Trijicon knows this and has set its \$599 MSRP accordingly. This directly undermines both the Aimpoint T-1's MSRP of \$768 and the T-2's \$846 MSRP. I wouldn't expect Aimpoint to stand idly by as Trijicon takes business away from sales of its Micro. Perhaps a price war lies over the horizon. Get ready to pop a bag of popcorn and enjoy the show. In the end, I predict the customer wins.

Trijicon has indicated to me that limited availability of the MRO will begin in September 2015. Expect a relaunch of this product at the SHOT Show next January. 



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WORDS BY LEN WALDRON | STUDIO PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ANSCHUETZ





# OR ROOSTERS







I HADN'T FIRED A FRANCHI SHOTGUN in nearly 30 years. The last one I had handled was a Hunter model that belonged to my grandfather, and he had a love/hate relationship with it. He appreciated its light weight, vent rib and fast handling, but he always seemed to wince at the end of cold days late in the season when he ran heavier loads for skittish birds or for the chance of a mixed bag that included quail and pheasants. In my teenage vanity, I seized the opportunity to man up and endure something my grandfather complained about, but my juvenile nonchalance was bruised into compliance by the high-brass realities of physics. With a full vest of birds in one hand, I passed the shotgun back with the other and told him I agreed with him.

So, I was a bit skeptical when asked to run Franchi's new breed of semiautomatic shotguns, the Affinity and Intensity. However, I came to find while hunting pheasants in Utah that in the past 30 years Franchi has crafted two exceptional shotguns.

| Franchi Intensity   |
|---|
| Caliber: 12 ga.   |
| Barrel: 26, 28, 30 in.  |
| Overall Length: 47.5 in.  |
| Weight: 6.8 lbs.  |
| Chambered: 2¾, 3, 3½  |
| Finish: Black Synthetic, Realtree Max-5, Xtra-Green, and Mossy Oak Bottomland |
| MSRP: \$1,099   |
| Manufacturer: Franchi<br>301-283-6981<br>franchiusa.com                       |

| Franchi Affinity  |
|---|
| Caliber: 12, 20 ga.                                     |
| Barrel: 26, 28 in.                                      |
| Overall Length: 47.25 in.                               |
| Weight: 6.7 lbs.  |
| Chambered: 2¾, 3  |
| Finish: Black Synthetic, Realtree Max-5, Realtree APG   |
| MSRP: \$849   |
| Manufacturer: Franchi<br>301-283-6981<br>franchiusa.com |

### WINCHESTER ROOSTER XR

It all started with a world record in 2014 when Winchester's ShotLok ammo appeared in the National Wild Turkey Federation's Still Target competition. In its debut year, the Longbeard placed 54 pellets in a 3-inch circle at 40 yards. When it went on to sweep both the 12-gauge Hunter and Open Divisions, Winchester knew it was on to something. The improvement came from a simple concept and some technological ingenuity to pull it off. The engineers at Winchester reckoned they could get more pellets on target if they could keep them from denting and deforming as they discharged through and out the barrel. The theory was that a deformed pellet, over distance, would drift away from the point of aim. Winchester

solved this dilemma by encasing the pellets in a proprietary resin that suspends the pellets in place but shatters to dust shortly after exiting the muzzle.

The result is a lower percentage of shot deformity and a higher percentage traveling along the intended point of aim.

Winchester applied the Longbeard technology to the pheasant-load Rooster XR shotshells, and the results were the same — a higher percentage of pellets on target at every given range. Just as important, the shells and

their buffered pellets are responsive to chokes and not limited to long-range, full-choke applications. The average velocity is 1,300

fps. The Rooster XR shells are available in 12-gauge 3-inch, 1½-ounce, or 2¾-inch, 1¼-ounce loads of Number 4, 5 or 6 shot. For a box of 20 MSRP ranges between \$20-25.





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The lightweight Inertia Drive-action, borrowed from Benelli, gives the Affinity and Intensity shotguns reduced cycle time and overall weight. A spring in the bolt body uses the inertia of the recoil to cycle the action, eliminating the gas, gas blocks and unburnt powder in the action.

**The Inertia Driven System** Franchi's first step in the evolution of its semiauto line was to borrow the Inertia Driven action design from Benelli, its parent company. This simple system uses a spring in the bolt body to utilize the rearward inertia of the shotgun's recoil to load the spring and actuate the cycling of the action. I'll spare you the physics lecture, but what it does for the shooter is produce a faster cycle time with fewer, lighter parts. Gone is the weight of the gas cylinders and action bar linkages



Though nearly identical in fit and finish, the slightly heavier Intensity is chambered to handle up to 3½-inch shells and comes only in 12 gauge, while the Affinity can be ordered in both 20 and 12 gauge for 2¾-inch and 3-inch shells.

as well as the gases and unburnt powder that would normally be used to run the action. When paired with a chrome-lined barrel and chrome bolt head, the Inertia Driven System also runs cleaner against internal parts because it keeps most of the carbon and gas in the barrel, greatly reducing cleaning time.

As for the rest of the shotgun, the Affinity and Intensity differ little in outer appearance. Both come with chrome-lined barrels, interchangeable choke tubes, vent ribs, fiber optic front

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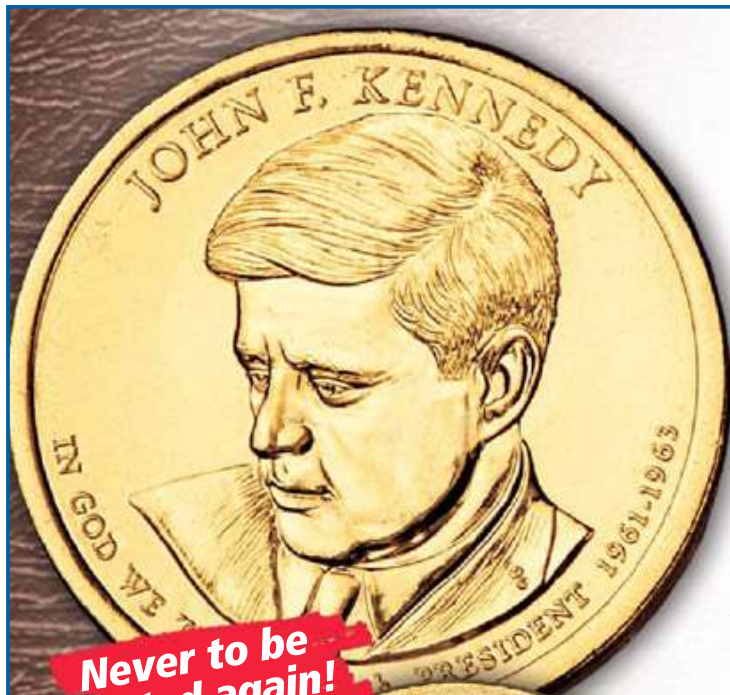


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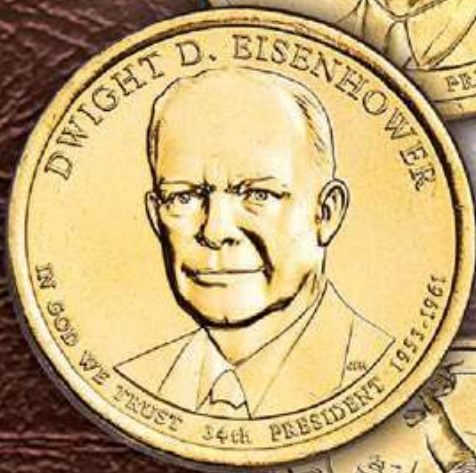
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Both the Affinity and Intensity feature interchangeable shims, allowing shooters to adjust for a custom drop and cast.



Shane’s well-trained Deutsch Drahthaars were quick to retrieve downed roosters and always eager to please.

sights and a safety placement just behind the triggerguard. Their stocks and forends are synthetic polymer with a rubberized buttplate. Both shotguns have simple, reliable ergonomic controls as well as interchangeable shims to customize drop and cast. The cocking handle and action-release button are large and intuitive with an added safety tab just above the trigger housing that locks the bolt to the rear. Though both weigh 6 pounds, 13 ounces, the Intensity can be ordered in a 3½-inch chambering, making it the super magnum of the pair. It also features dovetail

cuts atop the receiver for mounting optics. Both have a trigger pull of around 6 pounds. Though waterfowl-focused in many ways, the light Franchis are an easy carry for upland birds. The slightly thinner grips and oversize triggerguards are dimensioned for gloved hands. They take stress off the wrist and place the trigger finger in a tension-free, straight-pull orientation. Whether you are bundled up for late-season goose or running slick in the early season, both will comfortably fit an average set of hands.

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**To the Field ... With Some Help** I linked up with Shane Loveland of VomWasatch Kennels in Elwood, Utah, to get some pheasants in front of the Franchis. Shane breeds and trains his own line of imported Deutsch Drahthaars. Having been raised in the largely Southern bird-dog tradition of pointers and setters, these big, beard-faced hunters were initially a curiosity. Trained as versatile hunting companions, Drahthaars must pass tests for a series of skills covering both waterfowl and upland hunting as well as tracking and obedience. At times cantankerous, Drahthaars are popular in the West for both their hunting versatility and ability to deal with the cold. Though colored like a German Shorthair pointer, they have a wiry outer coat that sheds wind and water, allowing them to be as comfortable sitting in a ground blind as ripping through sage and cut cornrows.

On this blustery fall afternoon, the Franchis had an ally in the field. We were carrying Winchester's new Rooster XR pheasant loads in No. 4 and No. 6 shot, developed specifically to improve pattern retention and, ultimately, lethality at longer ranges. Winchester took its Shot-Lok technology, developed for the Long Beard XR turkey line, and applied it to a pheasant load. The approach was clever. Winchester focused on the slight denting that often occurs as soft-lead shot is fired out of a shell and through a shotgun's barrel. Why? The dented lead pellets tend to fly less consistently than round pellets, particularly over distance, and they drift away from the point of aim.

So, how does this work, and, more important, is the Shot-Lok technology just another branding gimmick? Shot-Lok is a method by which Winchester both protects and holds the pellets within the shell. Rather than a stacked pile of shot in a cup, the Shot-Lok load is held together in a specially formulated liquid resin that fills the space between the pellets and hardens within the column. When the shot fires, the resin prevents the initial shock from slamming the pellets together. In doing so, the energy shatters the resin to dust, which exits among the pellets, providing an additional buffer in the first part of the load's flight. The result is that fewer pellets are deflected and more hit their target at a longer range. It works on paper, but the real test would come in western winds on moving targets.

Shane's dogs fanned out across the Utah bottomland and worked to turn into the wind that whipped across the grass and sage. We were at the foot of the Wasatch Range, where the valley sits at 4,200 feet and Mount Timpanogos looks down on us

from 11,752 feet. The terrain was not difficult to walk, but deep, wadi-type ravines cut through the valley floor, giving the birds an escape channel and creating a scenting venturi for the dogs. Shane put a hard-charging young male and a seasoned female on the ground. The female, named Fi (for Fiona), perhaps in her last season and largely retired to yard-dog status, had grown gray around the eyes and face but jumped unassisted into Shane's truck. Shane didn't have the heart to leave her behind, and we were all glad, because her steady efficiency on a blustery day made a remarkable difference.

The first challenge to getting shots on the Utah pheasants was getting into the wind and orienting our passes to make the



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terrain work for us. There was water and cover but no major agricultural features such as fences, hedges or corn rows to channelize the birds. Without the dogs, this would have been an exercise in frustration.

Shane's young dog, Pistol, worked at a longer range, and Fi quartered steadily in front of us. Pistol found the first bird several hundred yards to our front, and it was already running when we caught up. The pheasant rocketed out and away from us, and Shane dropped it with one shot at more than 40 yards. It was his first-ever shot with the Franchi as well as the Rooster load, and the process read like a textbook. Shane smiled through his long beard as Pistol retrieved the rooster.


Though Pistol put the first bird on the board, Fi's methodical process produced bird after bird from the thick scrub, and her slower approach seemed to keep the birds closer than the younger, faster Pistol. Out of the box the Franchis were fast, and the Rooster XR loads were downright brutal. Perhaps we were shooting well, but the birds just buckled at considerable ranges. The pairing of a light but full-size shotgun that can manage recoil with a load that puts pellets on the birds at extended ranges was



a devastating combination. The most poignant moment of the hunt came when the older, slower Fi managed to pull a pheasant out of a nasty tangle in the bottom of a deep ravine. Age had not dampened her heart or her resolve to follow her nose where the scent took her. She ground her way through the thick cover and up the ravine wall, bird in mouth. The moment she crested the rim, I felt a bit of remorse for those who don't hunt and will never see something this beautiful.

**A Winner** Franchi's 21st century version of the waterfowl and upland shotgun is indeed a step forward that has real bene-

fits for the hunter and recreational shooter. The company has adapted new technologies that produce a lighter, cleaner, faster shotgun that manages recoil and can be adjusted to the shooter's preferred length. Paired with an effective load such as the Rooster XR, it's up to the hunter's shooting abilities to avoid the shameful looks from dogs who hunt hard but never get to taste a feather.

One note: When you find yourself at your local gun store asking for an Affinity or Intensity of your own, try and remember that the brand is pronounced "Fronkie." 



**MARK 4  
SERIES**

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Period photos of Type 94s in service are scarce. Here, a Japanese pilot in the foreground sports a holstered Type 94.





# Japan's Unique “Surrender” Pistol

An odd feature in the Type 94's design ended up turning this unprepossessing auto into a Second World War legend.

WORDS BY GARRY JAMES | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JILL MARLOW

**BECAUSE OF A CURIOUS** design feature in which an exposed sear bar could be pressed to fire the pistol independently of the trigger, the Japanese Type 94 earned something of an infamous reputation as a “surrender pistol” or “suicide gun.” The stories ran that when soldiers presented themselves for surrender, while turning over their Type 94 they would purposely push the sear either to kill themselves rather than become a prisoner or craftily shoot the unsuspecting Marine or GI to whom they were handing the pistol.





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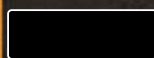
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The Japanese Type 94 is certainly one of the oddest-looking auto pistols ever, but what it lacks in looks it makes up for in questionable design features.

The problem with the tale is, like those who claim to have seen the Indian Rope Trick, if you pin down the yarn-spinner you usually find that he didn't actually witness the event himself but heard about it over drinks at the local VFW hall from "a guy who was really there." Bottom line, if the Type 94 was ever used for such nefarious purposes, research indicates that verifiable accounts are limited at best.

It's easy to see how such stories could have arisen, as the Type 94 is one of the more sinister-looking auto pistols of the 20th century. If one wishes to ascribe human characteristics to mechanical contrivances, I suppose a case could be made for this pistol to have an "underhanded, sneaky" appearance.

Physiognomy aside, this little 8mm six-shooter was really not that bad a pistol and suffered more in Western eyes from its unorthodox appearance than any inherent shortcomings, though it must be admitted that the external sear bar setup could have been better thought out.

The World War II Japanese pistol most are familiar with is the Type 14 Nambu, which gained its name from the year it was adopted by the Japanese army, 1925, the 14th year of the Taisho Emperor's reign. For the most part, this Luger-looking auto was a streamlined version of an earlier pistol, the 1902 Papa Nambu (a follow-on to the premier Grandpa), which, like the 14, relied on design elements by Japanese firearms genius Kijiro Nambu.

There was really not all that wrong with the Papa, but it was complicated to manufacture. To rectify this problem, a simplified design was worked out, hence the Type 14.





Though it fires the same 8mm round as the Type 14 Nambu (top), the Type 94 is somewhat smaller and has a more unorthodox grip.

Type 94 holsters were full-flap and had a space for a spare magazine and cleaning rod. Material could be canvas, leather or, as in this case, pigskin.



Both the Type 14's and the 1902's major defect was the round for which they were chambered. The 8mm (.320) bottlenecked cartridge generally pushed out its 102-grain bullet (bullet weights and specs did vary over the round's production period) at 960 feet-per-second. It produced a muzzle energy of only about 202 foot-pounds — about a third less than that of the .45 ACP.

Ultimately, 300,000 Type 14s were turned out between 1926 and 1945.

Interestingly, the majority of Japanese officers really didn't



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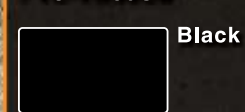
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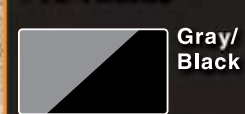
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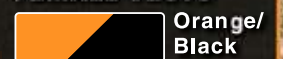


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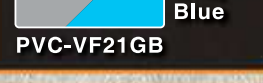
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Left: By pushing in on the exposed sear bar, the pistol could be discharged without pulling the trigger, giving rise to stories of Japanese shooting captors in this manner while pretending to surrender.

Below. Despite the 94's odd-shaped grip, James found it to be fairly comfortable to hold, though a person with larger hands might experience some difficulty.



A deeply ribbed cocking piece allows the bolt to be easily drawn to the rear.

consider the handgun a proper weapon, preferring to go into battle armed with a sword, the pistol being carried more as a symbol of rank.

Both the Papa and Type 14 were not diminutive guns, especially when carried in their rather bulky clamshell holster. Smaller

pistols could be purchased by officers privately through the Japanese officers union, the most popular being the Colt Model 1903 Hammerless and the 1910 Browning, both in 7.65mm (.32 ACP) caliber, and the Baby Nambu, a scaled-down version of the Grandpa in a proprietary 7mm chambering.

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So, small pistols were nothing new with the Japanese military. It might be convenient to think the Type 94 was inspired by these other pocket-size autos, but apparently such was not the case. Really, the Type 94 was not necessarily intended for officers at all but was purportedly developed for use by armored crews, pilots, airborne units and other troops for which the bulkier, Luger-size Type 14 would not necessarily be convenient. Of course, military supply and demand meant that the pistol eventually also fell into the hands of some officers and NCOs. Kijiro Nambu began work on the new gun actually as early as 1929, just four years after the Type 14th was adopted.

Eventually adopted in 1934, the Type 94's name was based on a change in Japanese nomenclature. Rather than being based on the year of the emperor's reign, the designation reflected a calendar year of 2594, reckoned from the supposed foundation of Japan in 650 B.C.

Unlike the 1903 Colt and 1910 Browning, which, because of their relatively light .32 ACP chambering, were simple blowbacks, the new Japanese pistol was



The Type 94 manual safety is a simple catch on the rear left side of the frame. When moved upward, it manually blocks the exposed sear bar.

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The Type 94's magazine safety simply pops out and prevents the trigger from being pulled when the mag is not present in its well.



The magazine release is on the left side of the frame at the lower portion of the triggerguard. The magazine does not drop free but must be manually extracted by way of lugs on its base.

to be chambered in the 8mm Nambu round, which, while not a particular hot-shot, was still not deemed appropriate to a blow-back-style action.

Nambu's solution, totally unlike his premier efforts, employs a reciprocating slide that incorporates a separate breechblock held in place at the rear of the slide by a crosskey. Interestingly, there are no rails on the frame; the slide and barrel (with its surrounding recoil spring) are held in position when the gun is fired by two vertical frame projections and a rear bridge.

An independent block in the frame provides locking, and it is held in place by a pair of lugs beneath the barrel. With the slide and barrel in the forward position, the locking block cams upward into corresponding apertures on both sides of the slide, locking the slide and barrel together.

Upon firing, the barrel and slide recoil in unison some .20 inch, camming the locking block downward and permitting the slide to move all the way back, ejecting a spent case and cocking the internal hammer. The slide then moves forward, stripping off

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Markings on the rear right of the frame indicate that our evaluation piece was made in 1943.

a fresh round from the magazine. When all ammunition is expended, the slide remains in the rearward position, ready for the extraction of the empty magazine, the slide snapping shut when the mag is removed. The gun has no hold-open. One chambers a first round by simply pulling back and releasing a grooved cocking piece at the rear of the slide.

The pistol's mag release is sited on the lower left rear of the triggerguard, though with the slide open the mag itself does not drop free of the frame, and it's necessary to loosen it by pulling down on a pair of flanking lugs on the baseplate, semicircular

recesses cut on either side of the bottom of the frame to facilitate this operation.

The main body of the 94 is certainly unorthodox-looking, but it's the pistol's grip that seems to come in for particular criticism, as it has an unusual downward taper that remains unique among service handguns. Though it looks awkward, in reality it's not disagreeable, and I can only assume that those who denigrate it have probably never tried it. For someone like me with relatively small hands (probably not an unusual feature among Japanese soldiers either), it is eminently comfortable and provides the shooter with a good, solid purchase.

Probably the pistol's most talked-about feature and one we alluded to earlier is the external sear bar, which, if the gun is handled improperly, has the potential to cause an accidental discharge. On the other hand, the safety lever on the rear left of the frame physically blocks the bar from movement when in the upward position, eliminating the problem, at least when the gun is on Safe.

The pistol is equipped with a magazine safety as well, and it

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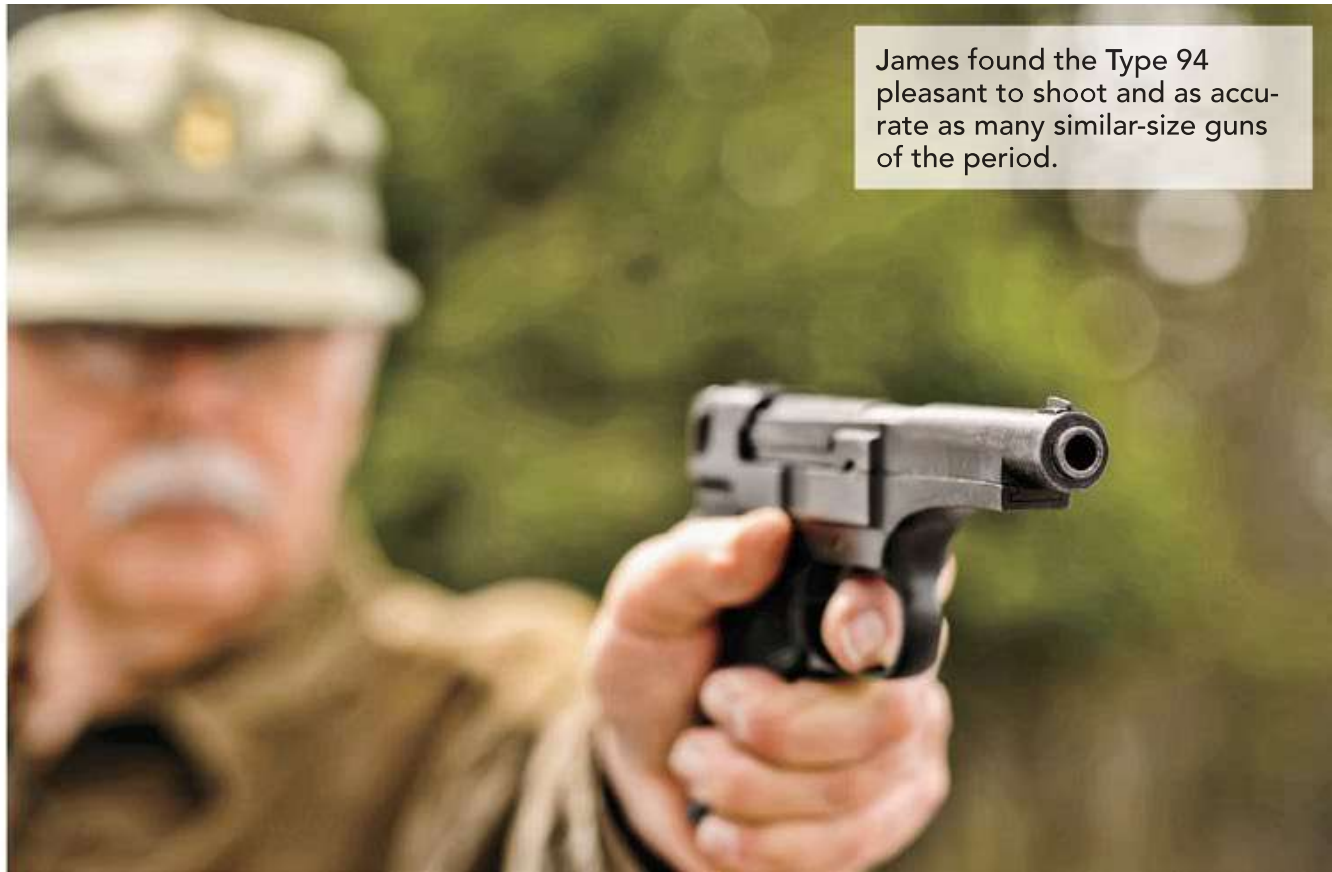




The Type 94 fired the same 8mm round as the larger Type 14. From left: .45 ACP, original 8mm Nambu round, Bob Shell 8mm custom load.

is a simple, effective arrangement (if one actually wants a magazine safety). When the magazine is removed, a small lever pops up from the inside of the frame and physically blocks the trigger from being pulled rearward.

Type 94 holsters were much more streamlined than those used with the Type 14, being of full-flap design and manufactured primarily of leather, pigskin or canvas. Basic accessories consisted of a cleaning rod and lanyard.



James found the Type 94 pleasant to shoot and as accurate as many similar-size guns of the period.

Grips were originally made of checkered plastic, but as the war progressed and that material became more scarce, wood was substituted. Quality of finish on the Type 94 declined along with Japan's fortunes. Some very late guns even dispensed with a component or two for ease of production, and because of this

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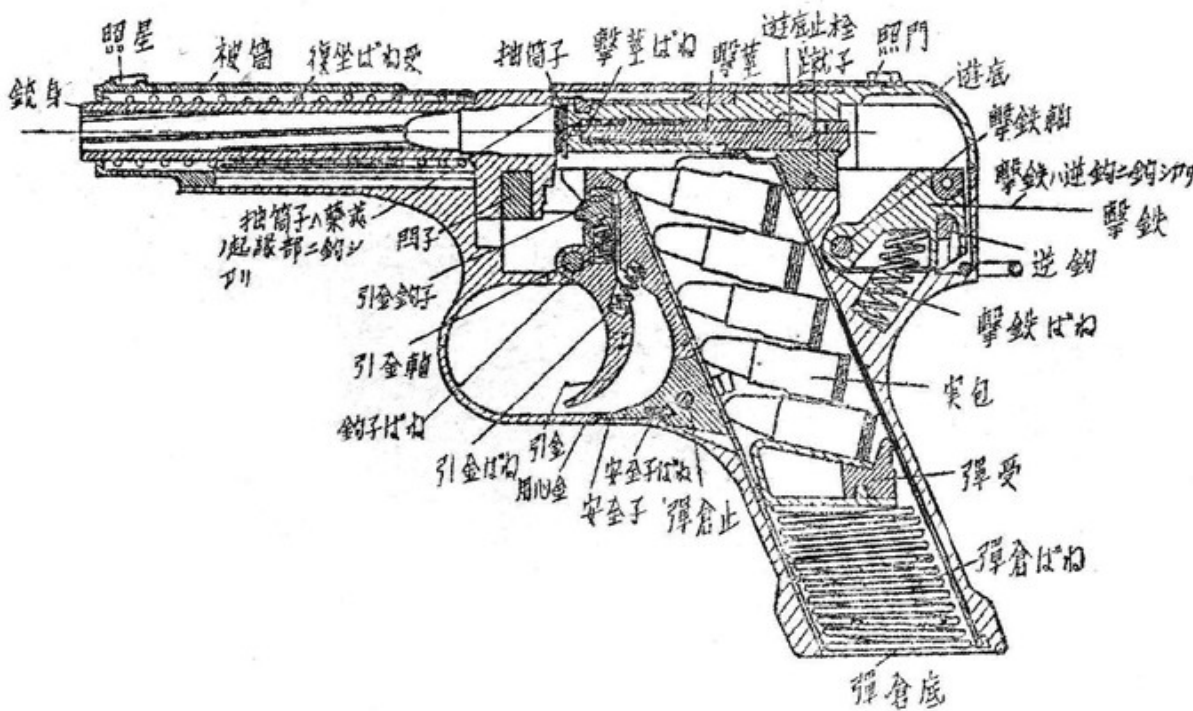
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This World War II-vintage picture of the Type 94's innards indicates that it employed a relatively simple mechanism.

found itself in the service of other Asian countries including Thailand, North Korea and China (Nationalists and Communists). Their abundance in the United States attests to the fact that they were a favorite American war trophy, though probably not as popular as

they are not deemed safe to shoot.

Production on the Type 94 began in 1934 and continued until 1945. Manufacturing was undertaken at several sites, and by the time the war ended 71,200 had been turned out.

Though primarily used by Imperial Japan, the Type 94 also

Type 14s, "samurai" swords or even Arisakas.

Over the years, I have had many occasions to fire Type 94s and always found them reliable, accurate and thoroughly serviceable. Frankly, I believe it to be a highly underrated handgun, a prime example of beauty being more than skin deep. **G&A**

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## TEN MIKE MIKE

**FOR YEARS**, 10mm devotees have been calling upon SIG Sauer to produce its popular full-size P220 classic in the formidable round that's been the subject of much debate over the last 30 years. The pistol is certainly stout enough to handle the increased pressures that the 10mm has become known for, but the years of silence have been deafening — until now.

At the 2015 SHOT Show, SIG fans and 10mm fans joined together at the Clark County Shooting Complex just north of Las Vegas to receive everything from SIG Sauer they had been asking for. Not only did SIG unveil four new P220s chambered in 10mm, it also added two 10mm loads to its line of Elite Performance Ammunition.

For those unfamiliar with the P220 platform, it is the handgun to which the company's classic P-series owes its heritage. The pistol was originally developed for the Swiss army and officially adopted by it in 1975, but chambered for 9mm. In 1976, the pistol was made available in .45 Auto and designed to best the M1911. It quickly earned

its reputation for being one of the most accurate .45s out of the box.

The P220 operates by a locked-breech, short-recoil action harking back to John M. Browning and has been available in the United States in .45 Auto for the last three decades. As of January of this year, 10mm expands the list of calibers in this platform to two.

G&A recently received a Match Elite Reverse Two-Tone 10mm P220 for evaluation. Though the original P220 had an aluminum frame, all 10mm models feature a stainless steel frame just as the P220ST model in .45. The heavier weight of the stainless frame helps deaden felt recoil, manage the extra muzzle rise and withstand the pressures produced by the hot 10mm cartridge. The barrel is 5 inches in length, which is helpful in extracting the internal ballistics of the 10mm round. The slide is machined from barstock and features both front and rear slide serrations, the latter located just above the dustcover and almost 2 inches from the end of the slide. The placement of the



The slide and barrel on the classic P220 and its variants are locked together until firing, utilizing an enlarged breech to lock the barrel within the ejection port.



G&A advocates for the use of rails on handguns intended for defensive purposes but would have preferred a more universal rail system. Many accessories will require an adapter.



Horizontal serrations are given to each control for presenting a tactile surface that becomes intuitive to operate. Vertical serrations on the front and back of the slide serve the same function.



The new SIG P220 in 10mm is a long-awaited model that features a 5-inch barrel to maximize the ballistics of the 10mm round. Increased energy and a longer range over the .45 ACP are the payoff at the cost of felt recoil.

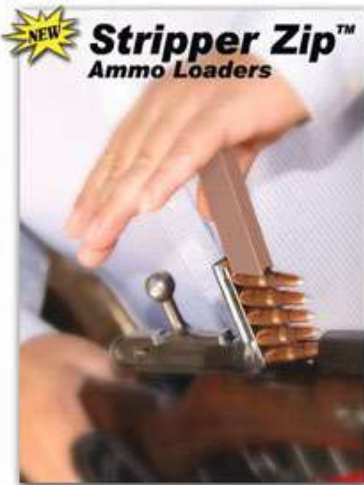
serrations encourages safe finger and hand placement should you press-check the pistol to verify a round has been chambered. The slide on our test sample is black in color and has been bathed in SIG Sauer's proprietary Nitron finish. Not that it is really necessary for a stainless slide, but the Nitron finish does possess additional wear and corrosion-resistance properties. Atop the slide are white-outlined SIGLite tritium night sights organized in a three-dot arrangement. Each pistol arrives with a test

target as evidence of it being zeroed and checked for accuracy at the factory in New Hampshire.

The full-size frame is stainless in finish and has a proprietary accessory rail machined into the dustcover for mounting lights, lasers and other accessories. Adapters for this rail are likely available if your favorite accessory is noncompatible, as most aftermarket manufacturers have responded with specialized mounts. While G&A does recommend the use of rails on defensive pistols, we would prefer a univer-



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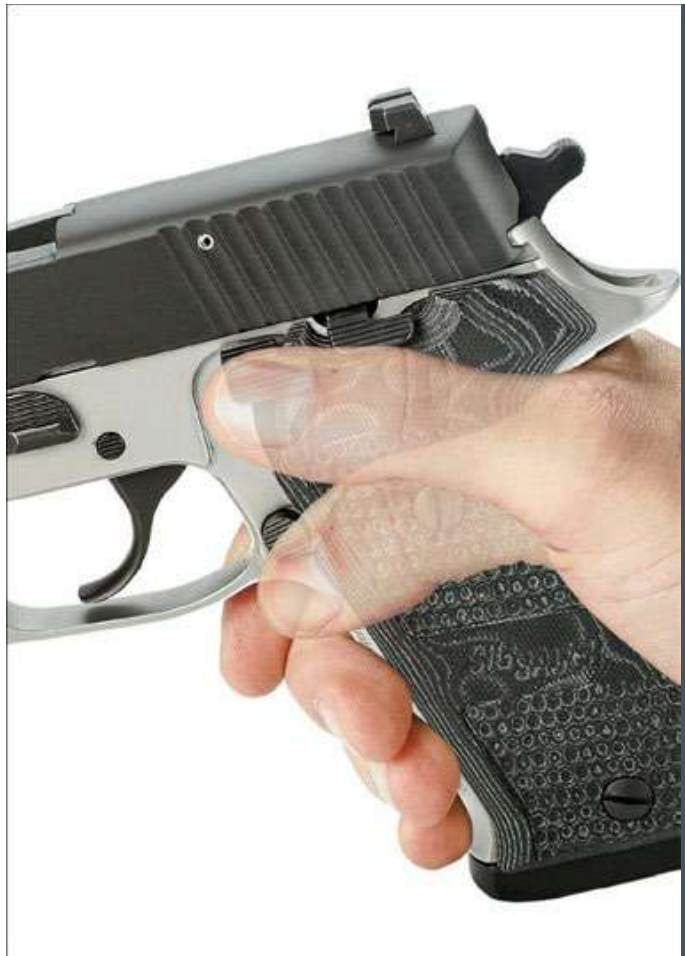
sal rail for the greatest compatibility  
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A large triggerguard accommo-  
dates gloved hands with ease, while  
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support hand's index finger, should  
your shooting style necessitate it.  
A large, stepped takedown lever is  
easy to actuate while also serving as a  
positive indexing location to rest your  
support-hand thumb. All controls are  
horizontally serrated, to include its  
large, oval-shaped magazine release  
and hammer. Finding them is quickly  
learned, and they are easily reachable.

G&A's test pistol features a tradi-  
tional double-action (DA)/single-action  
(SA) design with a decocker. When the  
hammer is cocked for single-action  
operation, simply sweep the decock-  
ing lever downward to safely drop the  
hammer. This feature allows users to  
safely carry one round in its chamber  
with the hammer forward. Should you  
need to rapidly fire the pistol, naturally  
draw it and stroke through its smooth,  
10-pound DA trigger pull. If time is on  
your side, you can also use your sup-  
port hand's thumb to manually cock  
the hammer, resulting in a short, clean,  
5-pound trigger pull for more precise  
shooting. In addition to the decocker,  
three safeties are onboard, including  
a patented automatic firing-pin safety  
block, a safety intercept notch and a  
trigger bar disconnecter.

The frontstrap is moderately check-  
ered. However, most of your control  
over the pistol will come from the





The innovation behind the P220 design was the layout of controls. Unlike the M1911 it rivaled, the P220 features a slide release, a decocker and a mag release within easy reach of your thumb.

black-and-gray G10 Piranha grips, which are of a textured laminate. G10 is a material constructed of bonded layers of glass-woven fabric that have been impregnated with an epoxy resin binding agent. The result is a very strong, lightweight, weather-resistant product. SIG Sauer has obviously taken a hard look at how customers have been aggressively texturing the grips of its pistols and begun offering similar textures and patterns on these factory grip panels. This quality is especially welcome when shooting a 10mm-chambered pistol such as this, as the texture on the backstrap and grip panels does an excellent job adhering to your hand without being too abrasive.

How does it perform? Put plainly, this pistol is large, bulky and heavy. While that might sound critical, the weight and size provide for a more enjoyable shooting experience and didn't leave our hands in pain after chronographing and accuracy testing several magazine's worth of hot loads. The 44 ounces of weight certainly has an impact on the reduction of felt recoil, as do the full-size grip, beavertail and aggressive grips. A lower bore axis is about the only update we feel could enhance this legendary pistol's handling, but then it wouldn't be a P220.

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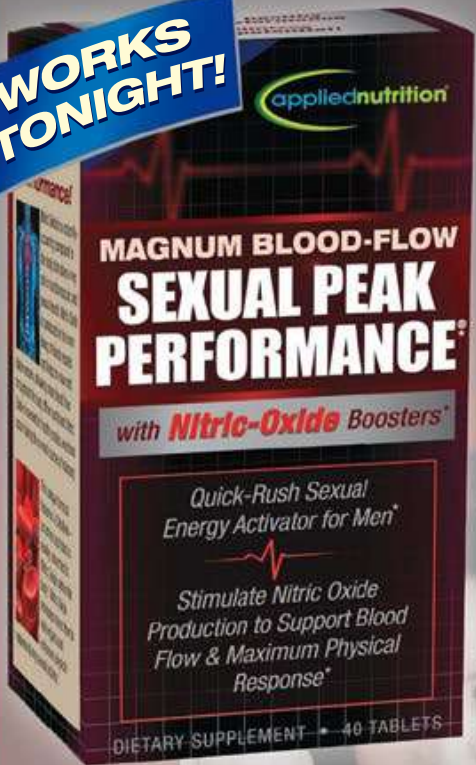
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Fieldstripping the P220 in 10mm is unchanged from the classic P-series. Starting with an unloaded pistol and the slide slightly drawn to the rear, rotate the takedown lever 90 degrees to remove the slide forward and off the frame. Remove the recoil spring and then the barrel. Reverse to reassemble.

## PERFORMANCE

| LOAD                                 | VELOCITY (FPS) | ES | SD | BEST GROUP (IN.) | AVERAGE GROUP (IN.) |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----|----|------------------|---------------------|
| Hornady Critical Defense 165-gr. FTX | 1,191          | 13 | 5  | 2.45             | 3.3                 |
| Federal 180-gr. Trophy               | 1,282          | 13 | 5  | 2.04             | 2.6                 |
| Sig Sauer 180-gr. FMJ                | 1,201          | 26 | 10 | 1.48             | 2.6                 |

at 25 yards with each of the three loads tested. As mentioned, a 15-yard test target arrived with the pistol illustrating five shots inside one ragged hole that measured .6 inch. Guns & Ammo demonstrated that our test pistol is capable of such performance. Our staff benched the pistol at our standard 25-yard test distance and left satisfied with the results. Using SIG Sauer's new 180-grain V-Crown FMJ, the P220 produced its best group in our evaluation, a 1.48-inch five-shot group, with an average of 2.60 inches center-to-center. Federal Premium's hot 180-grain Trophy Bonded JHP sizzled over the chronograph at almost 1,300 fps, besting the speed of the two other loads by an average of almost 100 fps.

The new P220 Match Elite in 10mm should be a welcome addition to the P220's heritage. It's a shooter. **GA**



Our best group was this 1.48 in. five shot example fired from a supported position, 25 yards from this high visibility Champion VisiColor target.



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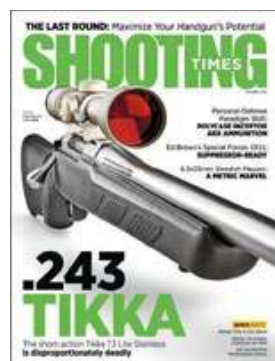


## EXTENDED INTERVIEW: ANDREW CASHNER

Baseball's Andrew Cashner stepped away from the pitcher's mound to inspire his fans by sitting down with G&A to discuss the influences in his life, affirm his support of 2A rights and describe his passions for shooting and hunting.

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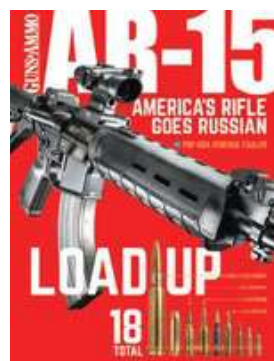
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G&A staff handles a few updated Desert Eagles in .44 Mag. and .50 AE. They are impressed.

2015  
**7**  
SEPTEMBER



Craig Boddington and James Tarr review Springfield Armory's latest M1A Scout Squad.

2015  
**14**  
SEPTEMBER



Kyle Lamb and Richard Nance in our "Tactical Training" segment with shotguns on the move.

2015  
**21**  
SEPTEMBER



Kyle Lamb and Richard Nance shoot SIG Sauer's new 1911 lineup.

2015  
**28**  
SEPTEMBER



Hornady makes a case for the .22 Mag. for personal defense with a new Critical Defense load.

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ARE  
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## SPENT CASES

*Olympic Arms OA-96*

## ONCE AN OUTLAW

**OLYMPIC ARMS** was the first company to commercially produce a pistol derivative of the AR-15 rifle. It was called the OA-93. It was first chambered for 5.56, but Olympic Arms also worked with adapting the design for the 7.62x39.

The OA-93 was visibly distinguished by its lack of the buttstock and buffer tube usually seen on the AR-15s. To add, the operating system was incorporated into a unique flat-top upper that moved the charging handle from the rear to the upper's left side. The ArmaLite AR-18 of the late 1960s inspired the recoil system, which utilized a short-stroke gas push-rod assembly positioned above the barrel. Fitted with a 6½-inch button-rifled barrel with a 1:7-inch twist rate, the action reduced the pistol's overall length to just 17 inches. It weighed less than 4½ pounds.

A 30-round magazine was initially delivered with the OA-93, but the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 required Olympic Arms to modify the design in order to continue selling them commercially. The first change produced the OA-96 (pictured), which featured a non detachable 30-round magazine that was pinned and welded. The OA-96 also incorporated a button at the rear, which allowed the shooter to open the upper receiver to

fill the magazine from pre-loaded 10-round stripper clips.

Two years later, Olympic Arms introduced the OA-98, which brought back the detachable magazine feature. The aluminum body and plastic pistol grip were heavily skeletonized to reduce the pistol's weight below the 50-ounce restriction in exchange for this feature to be compliant with the 1994 Crime Bill.

The OA-93 has made several appearances in movies including "Clear and Present Danger" in 1994 and "Bad Boys" and "Batman Forever" in 1995. Interestingly, almost all of these roles show an OA-93 with a small buffer tube attached to the lower receiver that was not part of the pistol's original system. It was necessary to allow the pistol to function on a select-fire mode and allow a longer, full-auto bolt carrier to cycle. Movie armorers praised its function with blanks but indicated that it cycles so fast that it had a tendency to burn out the gas piston's tube.

After the sunset of the federal assault weapons ban in 2004, a carbine variant based on the pistol was reintroduced. Now having an A2-type pistol grip and YHM Phantom flash hider, the OA-93 pistol has returned to production. **G&A**



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